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22 PAGES 150 FILS

Support reiterated for broadening base of consultation, parliamentary life

We are partners: Amir

Unity stressed: appeal to shun recklessness

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed today renewed his personal support for broadening the base of consultation, parliamentary life and peoples participation in the country's affairs.

In a nation-wide address, broadcast over the radio and television this evening, the Amir noted that though parliamentary life has been suspended for a period of

"contemplation and reconsideration", consultation has not ceased nor has people's participation, one way or another, stopped.

His Highness asserted Kuwait's communal bonds of fraternity, reciprocal respect and harmony in conducting dialogue or consultations between the leaderships and grassroots as well as the close unity and adaptability in taking the wise decision.

"We are all partners in the (process of) building of Kuwait," he declared, reminding that love for Kuwait entails the duty "of maintaining its unity and exerting efforts for its progress."

In his address, marking the new decade of the century, the Amir pointed out that the fast pace of the present historic stage demands wisdom rather than recklessness, co-operation rather than confrontation and joining hands rather than defiance.

"Let us always remember," the Amir appealed, "that we are members of the same tiny community which cannot tolerate dissent and differences and where it is easy to come to terms, given good intentions and open mindedness."

On Kuwaiti issues, the Amir said they are tackled from two perspectives, which are interdependent and inseparable, global and internal.

He added that the world around us is rapidly changing with emergence of new blocs, others disintegrating and transformations are taking place either in relations among countries of the north and south or between the south and north.

"No ship sailing in the sea of international politics can seclude itself, nor can some of its people take independent decisions away from its leadership and destiny, or fail to co-operate among themselves before it reaches its safe destination," the Amir emphasised.

Speaking of the contemporary global changes, the Amir pinpointed dialogue between the two superpowers as the most significant event and remarked that agreement between the two has been reached on such serious issues as levels of nuclear disarmament, while much less serious weapons had been acquired by smaller and weaker nations, whose funds were spent in their purchase and sons had been sent as cannon-fodder.

Despite ideological differences and divergence in principles and practices, he said the two superpowers reached the accord, thus saving much blood and diverting money to more beneficial fields.

"This is an attitude of rational dialogue followed by countries where wisdom prevails," the Amir said.

"This is the means we have chosen to be adopted by Kuwait," he asserted.

To develop life at home and build external relations, he said Kuwait strives to assert its presence at the world level. He cited Kuwait's developing relations with the UN and its specialised agencies and the bridges of amity it has established with the major powers and friendly countries.

He also made note of Kuwait's responsibilities as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and attention given to her Arab and Gulf ties.

The Amir recalled Kuwait's endeavours to improve Iraq-Iran relations and for the implementation of all clauses of Security Council resolution 598.

He praised the recent initiative made by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein aimed at speeding up the implementation of the resolution and once again called upon the Iranian government to respond favourably to the initiative.

His Highness also pointed at Kuwait's contribution to support



HH the Amir delivering the speech.

Scores trapped

Fire at Sheraton Hotel

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Kuna): Scores of lodgers were trapped in their rooms at the Sheraton Hotel here tonight, as fires broke out on two floors of the hotel, located in Kuwait City.

Fire department sources said that rescue operation was still in progress, as fires broke out on the second and top floors.

They added that ambulances and fire vehicles rushed to the scene and immediately began to evacuate the hotel guests.

The cause of the fire is not yet clear, but the sources said the fire may have been caused by a power short-circuit.

Tens of persons gathered on the hotel's balconies and roof, as firefighters were busy extinguishing the blaze and evacuating people.

A source at the fire department said that eight persons suffered suffocation and one firefighter was hurt during the rescue operation.

He indicated that a special commission will be formed tomorrow to determine the cause of the fire.

Earlier, fire squads contained a fire which broke out at a place selling gas cylinders at Tuna Street, in the Hawalli area. (See Page 9)



Firefighters extinguishing the fire at Sheraton Hotel.



Soviet army officers talk with Azerbaijani activists who blocked the road to Gyandzha in the Khanlar region. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baku falls to army

Many civilians and troops killed

MOSCOW, Jan 20, (Agencies): The Soviet army smashed through barricades into Baku early today to seize control from insurgent Azerbaijani nationalists and dozens of civilians and several soldiers were reported killed in the operation.

The nationalist Popular Front in Baku said their preliminary figures indicated at least 120 people had died.

President Mikhail Gorbachev said today Moscow had sought for two years to solve tensions in Transcaucasia between Azerbaijanis and Armenians peacefully.

"We acted on the understanding that violence only led to more violence," he told the country in a television address hour after the Soviet army forced its way into Baku.

Local nationalists in the rebel Azerbaijani capital had claimed they had seized power.

"Militant nationalist careerists refused to listen to the voice of reason," Gorbachev, looking grim and wearing a dark suit and dark striped tie, told millions of viewers.

"Events took a particularly tragic turn in Baku," he said.

"There were growing calls for seizure of power by force in the republic."

"To our deep regret people have died," he said in a 12-minute address.

The official death toll in fighting after tank-led troops smashed through barricades at Baku early today has been put at 60, including several soldiers.

"The soldiers of the army and the Interior Ministry are carrying out their duty in defending the constitution," Gorbachev declared.

Azerbaijan's Communist Party chief Abdul-Rahman Vezirov was dismissed today, after Soviet troops stormed into the republican capital Baku, Tass news agency said.

Vezirov was removed at a meeting of the Transcaucasian republic's party leadership, the official Soviet agency reported.

"The Bacchanalia of violence had acquired an ever more threatening and challenging character in Baku in the past few days," Soviet Deputy Foreign

Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh told a hastily-summoned briefing at the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

The troops were ordered in under a Kremlin decree which declared that "criminal extremist forces" had sought to overthrow Soviet power in the republic on the country's strategic southern border with Iran and Turkey.

In an apparent response to the action, the small Azerbaijani region Nakhichevan declared its secession from the Soviet Union, the Iranian news agency Irna reported.

A Popular Front spokesman said those killed were mainly civilians shot or crushed as the army forced its way through barricades and road-blocks with tanks.

"The Front has proclaimed three days of national mourning and a three-day strike," he said.

"Criminal actions had been directed not only against ordinary citizens but also against the existing state system. The measures that have been taken have made it possible to get the

(Continued on Page 7)

Singh picks nuke expert as deputy defence minister

NEW DELHI, Jan 20, (Reuters): Nuclear physicist Raja Ramanna, who headed India's atomic research centre when it exploded a nuclear device in 1974, was appointed deputy defence minister today.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who retains the main defence portfolio, named Ramanna as minister of state (junior minister) for defence.

Ramanna, a 64-year-old expert on nuclear fission, was director of the Bha Bha Atomic Research Centre when it developed and exploded India's first nuclear device in 1974.

India acknowledged exploding a nuclear device but has always denied actually assembling any

nuclear weapons.

Singh kept defence for himself when he formed his cabinet last month and a government spokesman said the prime minister remains India's senior defence minister.

The portfolio is politically sensitive because Singh accuses the previous Congress Party government of Rajiv Gandhi of taking kickbacks in a 1986 arms deal with Sweden's Bofors company.

Both Bofors and Rajiv deny the charges. Singh has said he will do no more business with Bofors unless it names any Indians who took bribes on the \$1.3 billion contract.

Riots in Kashmir as scores arrested

SRINAGAR, Jan 20, (Reuters): Riots erupted in Kashmir today after Indian security forces raided homes, arrested scores of people and threatened to shoot curfew breakers on sight in a crackdown on Muslim revolt.

The latest protests began hours after India imposed direct rule through a new governor in Jammu and Kashmir to quell near-anarchy in its only Muslim-majority state. Militants there demand independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan.

Police said six people were wounded when they fired on demonstrators and five people were injured when a bomb wrecked a bus in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

Witnesses said that in other clashes, rioters assaulted a senior police officer and eight women were injured when police used batons and tear-gas on demonstrators outside a government office.

The violence started after paramilitary police toured the old quarters of Srinagar, announcing by loud-hailer that they would shoot curfew breakers.

Witnesses said the Indian forces ignored the protests of local police and rounded up three busloads and two truckloads of people in house-to-house searches.

Former Governor K.V. Krishna Rao, who quit this week, had sought to insist that Indian forces should not make arrests or search homes without local police being present.

India's new government replaced him on Friday with Jagmohan at whose appointment the state government quit in protest. Jagmohan declared governor's rule, under which he can govern on New Delhi's behalf.

The main militant group, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), called a strike in the state for Monday, when Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is due in Delhi to meet the new government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Kashmir will be the main topic in Monday's talks.

The JKLF said in a statement it welcomed Yaqub Khan's visit "as far as strengthening friendly ties between the two neighbours is concerned."

"But no important consultation on Kashmir to which the state's people are not made a party can prove lasting or acceptable to us," it said.

Thatcher challenger snubbed

Meyer dropped

ABERGELE, Wales, Jan 20, (AP): Sir Anthony Meyer, the legislator who challenged Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative Party leadership last month, was dropped by his local constituency party last night as a sign of its disapproval.

The Clwyd Northwest constituency Conservative Party in North Wales voted 206-107 at a meeting in Abergelle to drop Meyer as its official Conservative Party candidate for the next general election due by mid-1992.

Thatcher, 64, won a handsome victory against Meyer's unprecedented challenge in the Dec 5 party leadership vote but was denied the total triumph her supporters campaigned for.

She got the votes of 314 of the 374 Conservative members of parliament while 33 supported Meyer, 34 abstained by deliberately spoiling their ballots, and three did not show up for the vote.

It was her first challenge as Conservative Party leader since she ousted ex-prime minister Edward Heath.

The vote last night means Meyer will remain Conservative member of parliament for Clwyd Northwest until the next general election. But the local party will then select another candidate to fight the election on behalf of the Tories in the constituency.

Meyer, a former diplomat little known outside parliament, admitted at the time of the Dec 5 leadership contest that he had no chance of winning. But he said he hoped the result would send Thatcher a message of discontent at a time when the Conservatives trailed the socialist opposition Labour Party by up to 15 points in opinion polls.

NEWSWATCH

Aldo Gucci dies

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (AP): Aldo Gucci, who helped turn his father's Italian luxury leather goods company into an international symbol of chic but whose own son later implicated him for tax evasion, has died at age 84, it was announced Friday.

Bush reminder

MIAMI, Jan 20, (AP): US President George Bush says the end of former Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega's rule should be a lesson for the "two holdouts preventing a totally democratic hemisphere." Cuba's Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega.

Gorbachev offer

MOSCOW, Jan 20, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday renewed his longstanding offer to end all Soviet nuclear tests.

He said such a step — rejected in the past by the United States — would remove a threat to mankind and benefit the world's endangered environment.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate southeasterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 8.00 am, 6.00 pm

Low water: 12.00 am

Sunrise: 6.43 am

Sunset: 5.16 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmed: 16°C 61°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 4°C 39°F

Ahmed: 7°C 45°F

Falaka: 8°C 46°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 82 per cent

Ahmed: 76 per cent

Falaka: 70 per cent

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ARAB TIMES

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Page 2.

Governor ousted

Manila troops use force

MANILA, Jan 20, (AP): The government today used tear-gas and anti-riot troops flown in from Manila to oust a provincial governor who defied efforts to suspend him for allegedly supporting last month's failed coup attempt, a radio report said.

Independent radio station DZRH said local government Secretary Luis Santos ordered soldiers to disperse some 10,000 supporters of Rodolfo Aguinaldo, governor of Cagayan province on the

northern island of Luzon.

For several days, scores of Aguinaldo's youthful supporters had prevented Santos and Vice-Governor Melvin Vargas from entering the Capital building at Tuguegarao, 320 kilometres (200 miles) north of Manila.

"I will not allow the dignity of this office to get trampled upon by your governor," Santos said. "We will clear them (Aguinaldo's supporters) up."

DZRH said soldiers fired several rounds of tear-gas canisters. Then, armed with truncheons and shields, the soldiers pushed the crowd aside to allow Santos, Vargas and military officials to enter the Capitol building.

Santos swore in Vargas as acting governor at 9 am (0100 GMT). Aguinaldo will have to serve a 60-day suspension while being investigated in connection with the coup attempt against President Corason Aquino from Dec 1-9, the radio station said.

Col Emiliano Templo, the military's representative in serving the suspension order, said about 150 anti-riot troops were flown in to prevent bloodshed. Two battalions of combat soldiers, at least four armoured personnel carriers and several military trucks had ringed the Capitol building.

The Supreme Court upheld a government decision to suspend Aguinaldo because he allegedly threatened to send troops and tanks to Manila last month to support the latest attempt to oust Aquino.

But Aguinaldo's supporters barricaded the Capitol grounds with vehicles and vowed to resist the order.

On Thursday, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos claimed Aguinaldo had agreed to vacate his office at Midday yesterday, but the governor said "that was not part of our discussion."

Aguinaldo, a former lieutenant colonel with his own private army, said he would discuss his options with his followers. But the crowd urged him to stay on.

Philippine authorities have arrested a US citizen wanted in connection with gun smuggling charges in California, officials said yesterday.

Steve Lindsay Thomas, 34, formerly a member of a US Air Force assault squadron, was arrested by Philippine Immigration Authorities at the Excelsior Hotel in the suburban Paranaque district on Wednesday.

Thomas was turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation, the immigration commission said.

US embassy spokesman David Andriessen said a California court issued an arrest warrant for Thomas in March 1989 on charges of illegally transporting firearms.



Place of religion

Builders work at the construction site of Rome's first mosque expected to be opened this year. A mosque in the historic centre of Christianity was once unthinkable. But even the Vatican has given its blessing to the Islamic place of prayer because of the increasing number of Muslims in Italy. Prince Abol-

ghassem Amini, the 82-year-old Iranian head of Islamic Cultural Centre which is overseeing the \$50 million project said: "This will be a place of religion. Politics will have to stop at the door." (Reuters wire-photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

US envoy briefs Indian officials: US Undersecretary of State Robert Kimmitt has completed a review of Washington's support for Afghan rebels and briefed India's new leaders, the US embassy said yesterday.

A spokesman described Kimmitt's two days of talks in New Delhi as low-key and declined to elaborate on the Afghan discussions.

India maintains close relations with Afghan President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government, battling Western-supported Muslim rebels.

Kimmitt, who has praised greater Soviet flexibility on Afghanistan, has been touring Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to review US policy ahead of US-Soviet talks in Moscow next month. He left New Delhi for Washington yesterday. (Reuters)

US aid to Pakistan: Pakistan will continue to be a high priority country for US aid despite the competing demands of Eastern Europe, a senior US official said on Thursday.

Undersecretary of State for political affairs Robert Kimmitt told reporters he had assured the Pakistan government during talks in Islamabad that it would not be downgraded although Washington faced budget constraints.

Republican US Senator Robert Dole suggested this week that Pakistan and the other four major aid recipients — Israel, Egypt, the Philippines and Turkey — take a five percent cut to help the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. (Reuters)

Malaysia hangs Indonesian: An Indonesian, convicted by a Malaysian high court of drug trafficking, was hanged at the Kota Kinabalu prison in Sabah, east Malaysia state on Friday.

The Indonesian authorities, however, have criticised Malaysia for the hanging because their appeals

for a stay of execution have been rejected. Barrie Masse, 37, had been found guilty of trafficking in 935 gm of ganja (hashish) at Putatan, near Kota Kinabalu in 1983. (Kuna)

Greece wants EEC to reject Turkey: Greece wants the European Economic Community to emphatically reject Turkey's application to join the 12-nation group, EEC diplomats said on Friday.

The EEC's Executive Commission said last December it would be unwise to expand the community before the completion of the single market in 1993, and that the political and economic situation in Turkey ruled out membership for the time being. (Reuters)

Japan's first prime minister dies: A member of the Imperial family who became Japan's first prime minister after World War II died yesterday, officials at the Imperial household agency said. He was 102.

Naruhiko Higashikuni, a great uncle of Emperor Akihito, had been hospitalised since last May, but his condition worsened in November, the officials said. He was pronounced dead at 8.54 am yesterday (2354 GMT Friday) from heart failure at the Nisseki Medical Centre in Tokyo, according to the officials. (AP)

Ex-West German party leader dies: Herbert Wehner, the fiery orator who quit the Communist Party to become one of West Germany's leading Social Democrats, has died, a spokesman said. He was 83.

Wehner died late Friday at his home in the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesberg. Social Democratic Party spokesman Eduard Heussen said.

Shuttle delay

An extra day due to fog

US SPACE CENTRE, Houston, Jan 20, (AP): The space shuttle Columbia, forced to stay in orbit an extra day because of fog at its desert landing site, streaked homeward early today to end the longest shuttle mission yet.

The spaceship and its five astronauts had planned to return home Friday morning, but the landing was "waived off" first by one orbit and then by a day because of a threat of fog that proved to be real at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

A new landing time of 12:01 am local time (0801 GMT) Saturday extended the shuttle flight to nearly 11 days, surpassing the old record, set by Columbia in 1983, by 11 hours, 38 minutes.

The weather was expected to be favourable for the new landing time in the Mojave desert, although there was a possibility for fog again. Mission control commentator Kyle Herring said the chance for fog appeared greater later in the morning.

Columbia carries enough fuel and other supplies to stay in orbit until at least Monday, said officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The long-awaited launch of the Hubble space telescope will be delayed from March to April because of a problem with one of space shuttle Discovery's solid fuel booster rockets, NASA said Friday.

The 1.7-billion-dollar spacecraft is scheduled to become astronomy's most significant tool in expanding knowledge of the universe into the 21st century.

Scientists have eagerly awaited the Hubble launch since well before its original liftoff date in 1985. Early technical problems and the 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion resulted in the long delay.

Orbiting 370 miles (595 kms) high, the telescope will look seven times more deeply into the space and detect objects 50 times fainter than the best ground-based observatory.

A European Space Agency astronaut, Dr Ulf Merbold, is to be among the international crew aboard the US space shuttle Columbia when it blasts off next December, ESA announced Friday.

Merbold will serve as one of two payload specialists on the nine-day mission.

Dr. Roberta Bondar will become the second Canadian in space, Minister of State for Science and Technology William Winegard said Friday.

Andrew to sea, Duchess for skiing

LONDON, Jan 20, (AP): The Duke of York began a new navy posting aboard the frigate Campbelltown in Gibraltar on Friday, while his wife awaits the birth of their second child in March.

The Duchess, said by Buckingham Palace to be "perfectly all right" after tripping and falling outside a London restaurant Thursday night, flew to Klosters ski resort.

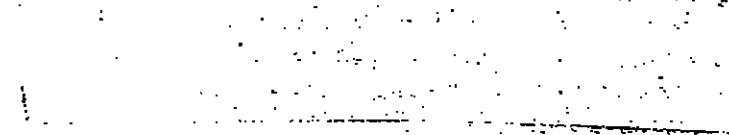
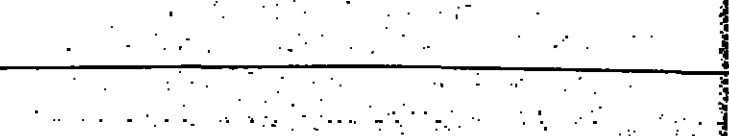
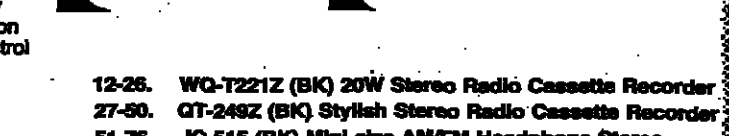
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INTERNATIONAL

Proposal to place warning text on the instruments

Portable phones radiation risk

COPENHAGEN, Jan 20, (AP): Danish telecommunication authorities are concerned that radiation emitted by cellular telephones might be harmful to users, according to a trade journal published today.

"The question is whether they (cellular phones) have the effect of a microwave oven while it is stuck on your head inside it while it is on," said Tage Iversen, director of the state inspection authority Teleinspektionen.

Officials of the Teleinspektionen

have proposed that a warning text be placed on the instruments, said the journal Ingeniøren (the engineer).

Like tiny radio transmitters, cellular phones give off microwaves in the 900 MHz band. As the short antenna is only a fraction of an inch (2.5 centimetres) away from the user's skull when engaged, microwaves could warm up the brain matter, the journal said.

But the board of health has so far refused to approve warning labels on the phones, arguing that not enough

facts are known.

Joergen Bach Andersen, an engineer at the institute for Electronic Systems at Aalborg University Centre in western Denmark, has been studying the effect of radio waves on health in connection with treating cancer.

"We tried to get heat from radio waves into our test dummies, and in fact that was not so easy. It takes a lot more (power), and that's only a tiny bit of the effect that goes into the hand or the head," Andersen was quoted in the journal as saying.

"Nobody knows for sure. Everyone goes around slightly nervous. There are good reasons for keeping an eye on developments," Andersen added.

Andersen said that so long as the user is not talking into his phone it gives off radio waves in a single high frequency. But these are modulated when the phone transmits, which sets up a low frequency electromagnetic field.

Such fields are like those emitted by high-tension power lines and computer screens.

Appeal to allow pot as medicine

WASHINGTON, Jan 20, (AP): Groups trying to make marijuana available for medical uses such as controlling nausea in cancer patients yesterday appealed the US Drug Enforcement Administration's decision rejecting the move.

The DEA acknowledges that marijuana has been used as a drug for centuries and its therapeutic potential has been noted by doctors for 150 years.

But the drug has been illegal in the United States since 1937 — with only a synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol, THC, available for medical use — and DEA administrators for 15 years have rejected bids to make marijuana itself available to patients, most recently last month.

The drug policy foundation, acting as attorney for the national organization for the reform of marijuana laws and the alliance for cannabis therapeutics, took the case again to the US court of appeals, yesterday.

First time
"This will be the fifth time," said Kevin Zeese, counsel and co-founder of the drug policy foundation who was with normal from 1980 to 1986. The drug policy foundation advocates treating drug abuse as a health problem, not a criminal problem.

"Each time we've won," Zeese said. "But this is the first time (the case) is on the issue of whether marijuana has medical value." Advocates of allowing medical uses of marijuana want the DEA to change marijuana's status as a schedule I drug, which is available only for research, to a schedule II drug, which would make it available for patient use.

Previous court cases have been more on procedural matters, such as whether the DEA held appropriate hearings before rejecting applications.

Safest
On Dec. 29, DEA administrator John C. Lawn rejected a longstanding petition to reclassify marijuana to schedule II, overturning a recommendation by DEA's chief administrative law judge, Francis L. Young, who had recommended that marijuana be placed on the less restrictive schedule.

Young called marijuana "one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man."

"The evidence in this record clearly shows that marijuana has been accepted as capable of relieving the distress of great numbers of very ill people, and doing so with safety under medical supervision," Young wrote. "It would be unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance in light of the evidence in this record."

Evidence
Lawn wrote that Young had "failed to act as an impartial judge in this matter. He appears to have ignored the scientific evidence, ignored the testimony of highly credible and recognized medical experts and, instead, relied on the testimony of psychiatrists and individuals who used marijuana."

In addition, Lawn said, Young had "ignored any evidence presented by the government."

Synthetic THC is available on schedule II for use as a cancer chemotherapy anti-nauseant. Marijuana also has been touted as useful in the treatment of glaucoma.

Dr. C. Stratton Hill of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, said of THC, "the people I know who have used it say it's not better than other anti-emetics," or anti-nausea, and vomiting drugs.

Emotional
"To be effective, you usually have to give it in the dose that will cause the mind alterations," Hill said. "Most patients who have cancer don't particularly like that because they're older folks ... and that's disturbing to them."

Hill said the use of marijuana "is more an emotional issue than anything else ... it's tied up with the psychological makeup of the person who wants to use it that it's difficult to ferret out what its use actually is."

But Zeese said studies by a half-dozen states comparing marijuana and the synthetic THC for their antinausea properties have found "marijuana's much more effective and much safer as well."

Dentist chair sex fantasy

Journal defends docs

LONDON, Jan 20, (AP): Some women have reported sexual fantasies after receiving sedatives used in oral surgery, and this may have produced false complaints of assaults against dentists, the Lancet Medical Journal reported yesterday.

"The fantasy-inducing qualities of benzodiazepines are only now being recognised," wrote the Lancet's legal advisor, Diana Brahm.

Her article discussed 41 cases in which women had reported fantasies, usually involving sex, after receiving the sedative.

"In the past some doctors or dentists may have been wrongly convicted or disciplined for sexual offenses when the allegations stemmed from benzodiazepine-induced fantasies," Ms. Brahm wrote.

To protect themselves from charges of impropriety, dental organisations have advised their members not to be alone with sedated patients.

"It's a guide laid down by the general dental council and the president, two years ago, citing recent ethical concerns made it very clear the role of the chaperone in the surgery was absolutely essential," said Sara Sleet, a spokeswoman for the British Dental Association, which represents 17,500 dentists.

The chairman of the British Dental Association's ethical committee, Thomas Dowell, said that sexual fantasies are not a common side effect of benzodiazepine.

"But it does happen and the possibility must be realised," Dowell said. "Dentists must make sure there is no possibility of suspicion of any malpractice on their part at all."

Cosmo Hallstrom, a psychiatrist specialising in tranquilizer addiction, said benzodiazepines are ideal sedatives since they make patients very sleepy and blur unpleasant memories.

"It messes up your memory a bit," Hallstrom said. "We know people who start taking valium, which is a benzodiazepine, and sometimes go out and quite uncharacteristically shoplift because they are absent-minded."

Doctors are not as susceptible to false complaints, Hallstrom said, because procedures requiring sedation are usually done in hospitals where there are other people present.

"Dentists are particularly vulnerable because they are often working alone and fiddling around with the mouth," Hallstrom said. "The patients are in a twilight, suggestible state and they come out of it and their bra has slipped a bit or a button's undone — because the dentist has had to pull a difficult tooth — and the patient puts two and two together."

This side effect of benzodiazepine was brought to the attention of the Lancet by Dr John W. Dundee, who had details of 27 women alleging sexual fantasies while under the sedatives.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Born on the Fourth of July, "Glory" and "When Harry Met Sally" are the favourites for the 47th annual Golden Globes awards Saturday night.

Hosts Cybill Shepherd and Sam Elliott will preside over the Golden Globe ceremonies. Twenty-four trophies — 13 for motion pictures and 11 for television programmes — will be presented.

The awards, selected by the 83 voting members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, often serve as precursors to the Academy Awards, whose nominations are to be announced Feb. 14.

Last year, for example, "Rain Man" took two top Golden Globes and went on to dominate the Academy awards. (AP)

HOLLYWOOD: For the first time, this year's Academy Awards will feature live presentations beamed by satellite from around the world, including Moscow, London, Tokyo, Buenos Aires and Sydney, Australia. The Academy announced Wednesday.

Gilbert Cates, producer of the 52nd Annual Oscar Show, to be broadcast by American ABC television from the Los Angeles Music Centre March 26, said the Academy wants the presentation to be a dramatic change of "Friday's world."

More than 1 billion people in approximately 90 countries watch the Academy Award presentations, celebrating the power of movies to touch the human experience, Cates told a news conference Wednesday.

"Consequently, this year we are making arrangements to go live via satellite ... where presentations will originate from an Oscar party in each city."

The awards show will mark the first time satellite inserts from five continents will be shown in connection with the Oscar presentations, Cates said.

ATLANTA: More than half of all American deaths stem from nine chronic diseases, including stroke, heart disease and lung cancer, a US government report showed Thursday.

The National Centre for Disease Control said 52 per cent of US deaths in 1986 — or 1,103,156 people — had an underlying diagnosis of one of nine chronic diseases.

In addition to heart disease, stroke and lung cancer, the long-lasting disorders included diabetes, obstructive lung disease, breast cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer or cirrhosis.

The national, age-adjusted death rate from chronic diseases was 457.6 per 100,000 people, the CDC said in its morbidity and mortality weekly report.

"The lowest age-adjusted mortality rate occurred in Hawaii (326.8 per 100,000 population), and the highest in Michigan (517.6 per 100,000 population)," the report said.



Woman police chief

The mayor of Houston, Texas, on Friday nominated a woman to run the city's 4,000-person police department and become the first woman in charge of a major police force in the United States.

Mayor Kathy Whitmire nominated deputy police chief Elizabeth Watson to run the force in the nation's fourth largest city, replacing Chief Lee Brown, who left to run New York City's police department.

Watson's nomination must be approved by the Houston City Council but city officials said they did not expect resistance from the governing body because the choice comes highly recommended by outgoing Chief Brown. (Reuters wirephoto)

TOCCOA, Georgia: School officials suspended a fifth-grade public school teacher for refusing to stop daily Bible readings and other religious instructions in class.

Teacher Nancy Kennedy, 30, said Thursday she has read Bible verses to her students at Toccoa Elementary School since she started working there in 1979.

"I was given the option to return to the classroom if I agreed not to read the Bible," she said. "I felt I had God's law to obey rather than man's law."

The US Supreme Court has ruled in several cases that prayer, devotions and other religious teaching in public schools violate the separation of church and state mandated by the first amendment to the US constitution. The State of Georgia's department of education also forbids such activity. (UPI)

NEW ORLEANS: It didn't take too long for the pigeons at New Orleans international airport to fall in love with the fake owls that had been placed outside the terminal to scare them off.

"They may have scared the pigeons at one time, but they're not scared anymore," said aviation board chairman Steve Murray.

"Now you've got those ugly owls up there and the pigeons are making love to them, or whatever."

After the pigeons got over their fright, they moved back in and are making a mess of the roadway below.

A few years ago, somebody came up with the idea of the fake owls to scare the pigeons away from the terminal. The pigeons were roosting in the arch that forms the facade of the main terminal at the airport. (UPI)

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan: The thief who made off with 157 of a Caledonia township man's exotic snakes was familiar with reptiles, the collector said.

"It took me six years to get that many," Ronald Browner, 32, said of the \$15,000 snake collection.

"Those were my pets. Empty memories is all that I have. They meant everything in the world to me."

He said only 19 snakes were left behind, including four pythons he had been treating for colds.

Browner said he and his wife discovered the theft Tuesday night after they returned from a day of work at their suburban Kmart pet store. (UPI)

CLEARWATER: A businessman's plan to offer a day cruise for motorists will end by dark from the city's beach has some officials upset because they fear it will interfere with efforts to attract families to the beach.

"Nuclear is just not something that I think is a positive role model for youth," Mayor Rita Garvey said Thursday.

"I think the image that's generally associated with it unfortunately is just a little bit on the strange side," Commissioner Don Whelan said.

Businessman Dave Cutting said the cruise will embark from the city-operated Clearwater Marina on March 2. (UPI)

MARQUETTE: A judge in Marquette district court is dealing out cruel and unusual punishment to some offenders.

Judge Patricia Melow has ordered eight misdemeanour offenders to make amends by knitting Afghans, booties, scarves, mittens and caps for the poor.

Micklow and court probation officer Mary Mantyla said the programme helps the poor and allows people for whom community service is an unrealistic sentence to make restitution. (UPI)



Prego listens to questions on the witness stand Jan 19. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aids doc collapses

'I don't think I can go on'

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (UPI): An Argentine doctor who blames New York City for her fatal case of Aids broke down on the stand Friday and had to be helped from the courtroom in another emotional wallop in the landmark case.

"I don't think I can go on today — I really don't feel well," said Dr Veronica Prego, who heard her doctor testify Thursday that she had a year or less to live.

Prego, 32, her face puffy, seemed to be having trouble keeping her eyes open. She sat in the witness chair with her head down while defence lawyer Barbara Finger tried to question her about the day she heard on the telephone she had contracted the Aids virus.

When Prego turned to Justice Aaron Bernstein and told him she couldn't continue, the court was thrown into confusion.

Bernstein sent the jury from the room and then ordered attendants to help Prego through a back door of the courtroom. Her mother, Juana, and sister left their seats and rushed to accompany her.

Prego is suing the City Health and Hospital Corp. and two former colleagues for \$17.5 million in state supreme court in Brooklyn, claiming she caught Aids in 1983 when she pricked her fingers on the discarded hypodermic needle filled with blood from an Aids patient at the city-run King County hospital.

The case is believed to be the first trial in which a doctor has claimed hospital negligence caused her to get Aids.

Outside the courtroom, another Prego attorney, Susan Karten, said Prego had slept little during the night.

"She's devastated at hearing she's going to live less than a year," Karten said. "She didn't know that. She didn't know he was going to say that."

Karten referred to the testimony Thursday of Prego's physician, Gerald Friedland, who was asked by defence lawyer Stanley Friedman how long Prego might have to live.

"It is impossible to predict," Friedland replied. "But it is probably that her life expectancy is a year or shorter."



'To Hammer a Nail'

Yoko Ono unveils her 'Painting to Hammer a Nail' art piece at the Judson Memorial Church in New York City on Jan 19. The art work will be on display for one year and the public is invited to participate in the art work by hammering in additional nails. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reynolds cancels test market of new brand cigarette

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. Jan 19, (Reuters): A leading US tobacco company said yesterday it would cancel test-marketing of its new 'Uptown' cigarette brand in Philadelphia a day after the top US health official criticised it for targeting the brand at black smokers.

The company did not say whether it would ever introduce the mentholated brand.

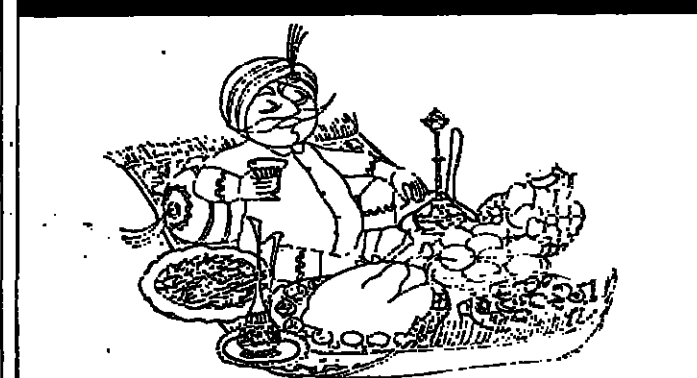
In a statement, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co complained of the "unfair and biased attention" the brand had received. "This represents a loss of choice for black smokers and a further erosion of the free enterprise system," Reynolds said.

Black and Hispanic groups, as well as anti-smoking interests, had harshly attacked Reynolds for the new brand, which the company acknowledged was intended to appeal to blacks.

On Thursday, US Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan bitterly denounced Reynolds and urged it to cancel the plans for the test-marketing, which was to begin on Feb 5.

In a speech in Philadelphia, Sullivan said it was time to resist the unworthy efforts of the tobacco merchants to earn profits at the expense of the health and well-being of our poor and minority citizens.

Indian Food Festival At Ramada Al-Salam



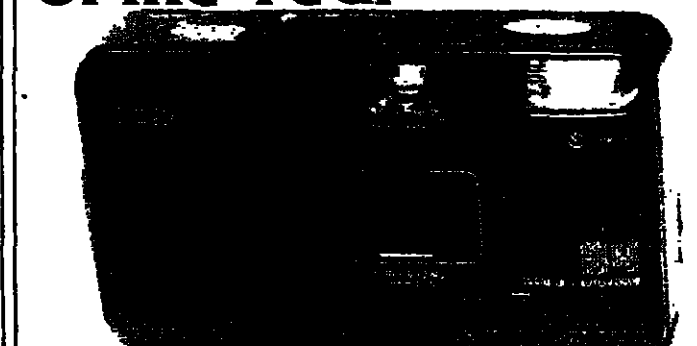
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Call to levy \$1 per ticket to combat terrorism

\$1b plan for air security

GENEVA, Jan. 20, (AP): An organisation that represents airline passengers yesterday called for a \$1 levy on all air tickets to finance a \$1 billion programme to improve airline security and combat terrorism.

Geoffrey Lipman, secretary-general of the International Foundation for Airline Passengers, said such a fund would contribute towards research into more sophisticated security technology and improved training of airline staff, particularly in Third World countries.

He cited a survey carried out by the foundation that showed 80 per cent of travellers questioned would support such a levy. The proposed fund would complement existing government and airline security expenditure, he added.

"It is not a question of the money, it's the organisation and the motivation," Lipman told an American International Club audience in Geneva.

"It's the need to battle against the kind of inertia that sets in 12 months after Lockerbie," he said referring to the bomb that dived Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland on Dec 21, 1988, killing all 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground.

He called for tougher international action, including severing air links, with states known to support or protect aviation terrorists.

Lipman said that although many airports had tightened up safety procedures, much more is needed to be done to implement existing security conventions on issues such as baggage checks.

He added that although airports in industrialised countries had sophisticated screening equipment, this was often undermined by human error.

"The success or failure of a machine is so often dependent on the skill of the operator, who is traditionally inadequately trained, badly paid, poorly motivated and bored to the back teeth," he commented.

Lipman cautioned that growing airport overcrowding increased the risk of cutting corners in security procedures, and warned of loopholes in the international security network by lack of facilities and funds for airports and airlines in developing countries.

The Geneva-based foundation describes itself as a private non-profit organisation whose mission is to "humanise air travel."

Mayor Barry tests positive for crack

Arrest leaves DC municipality in crisis

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, (AP): Mayor Marion Barry appeared before a federal magistrate Friday on a drug possession charge after investigators said they videotaped him buying crack cocaine and smoking it in a Washington hotel room.

The arrest of the mayor, who later tested positive for cocaine in his system, left the US capital's municipal political leadership in crisis. The magistrate ordered Barry to appear for a hearing on Feb 5, and required him to submit to drug testing once a week until then. After the hearing, the mayor was taken to a cell block in the federal courthouse to

be booked. Barry did not immediately enter a plea to the charge of possessing a controlled substance — crack cocaine in this case — but his lawyer said he would plead not guilty to the possession charge.

"I am going to leave here and go about the business of government," Barry said at a brief news conference. He would not discuss the drug charge.

According to court papers filed by federal prosecutors, the mayor was observed in a downtown hotel room Thursday night through a

surveillance camera by a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent. FBI agent Ronald D. Stern said he saw the mayor exchange cash for drugs from a co-operating witness.

Barry then allegedly "put some of the crack cocaine in a smoking apparatus, lit the crack cocaine and smoked it," Stern said in a court affidavit.

The affidavit also said tests conducted on blood and urine samples taken from the mayor following his arrest "showed evidence of cocaine ingestion."

The cocaine possession charge is a misdemeanor. If found guilty, Barry could face up to one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$5,000.

Barry had planned to announce his candidacy for a fourth four-year term on Sunday, but top city officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Friday the announcement was being postponed indefinitely.

They said they did not know if the mayor had changed his mind about seeking re-election.

Top city officials met into the early hours Friday to assess the impact of the mayor's arrest on the operation of the District of Columbia's government.

US attorney Jay Stephens said after the hearing that the undercover operation that resulted in Barry's arrest was "scrupulously fair" and said the mayor was not entrapped.

"Where there is predisposition there is not entrapment," he said.

After his arrest at the hotel, Barry was released on his own recognizance and spent the night at his home where he conferred with city officials and lawyers.

Assistant US attorney Judith Retchin said the government did not oppose Barry's release on a personal bond.

Barry has been plagued in recent years by accusations of drug use, but has denied ever using or buying drugs. His administration has also been tainted by the corruption convictions of several top city officials.

Despite the criticisms, Barry, who is black, has maintained a strong base of support among voters in the District of Columbia, which is about 70 per cent black.

But the mayor's troubles — coupled with Washington's soaring homicide rate that police blame largely on drug trafficking — have attracted nationwide attention.

President George Bush, asked about the arrest as he left for a trip to Atlanta and Miami, shook his head and said, "no comment."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the President had no advance knowledge of Barry's arrest and that he had been notified of it afterward by Justice Department officials.

Jesse Jackson, a national black leader and two-time presidential candidate who has been mentioned as a possible challenger to Barry, commented on the arrest only by saying he was "stunned."

Jackson said he would not challenge Barry, an old friend from their days in the civil rights movement. In recent weeks, sources close to Jackson had described him as backing away from a mayoral bid.

The FBI used a woman to get Barry to the hotel room, said a law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The woman was described by another source familiar with the case as a low-level employee of the District of Columbia government.

Barry's attorney, R. Kenneth Mundy, had said earlier Friday the charges against the mayor were "a misdemeanor kind of thing."



Barry (centre) and his wife Effie (right) shown arriving at US District Court. (Reuters wirephoto)



City administrator Carol Thompson. (Reuters wirephoto) Jackson is shown with Barry (left) during an anti-apartheid rally. (File photo) (Reuters wirephoto)

Dad's hunger strike in jail

Bid to force-feed

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire, Jan. 20, (UPI): County officials said Friday they are seeking a court order to force a self-described father rights advocate jailed on contempt charges to end his 30-day hunger strike.

Maurice Small, 48, stopped eating solid food on Dec 20 to protest his incarceration in the Hillsborough county jail. Judge William Groff ordered Small jailed after he was found in contempt of a court order to begin child support payments as part of a divorce settlements.

"What I am trying to do is to bring attention to the real plight fathers are facing... I am not against supporting my children. But I refused to be an indentured servant to my ex-wife," Small said in a telephone interview from the Goffstown lockup.

Small, leader of Fathers United for Equal Justice, a group that believes divorce settlements favours mothers financially, said he is "feeling weak physically" but intends to continue refusing food to draw attention to his case.

Hillsborough county attorney Peter McDonough said he will

ask for a court order Wednesday to begin force-feeding Small via a catheter placed into the man's nose.

"We are concerned if he continues not to eat his situation will deteriorate severely," McDonough said. Small stopped taking fluids several days ago and has also rejected medical treatment, he said.

Small, a decertified psychologist from Nashua, was divorced from his wife Sandra in 1984. The Smalls have two children, Daniel, 17, and Lise, 15. Small said he has refused to make court-ordered child support payments because he lost custody of the children.

"The way I see it, no custody, no child support," Small said, adding "the court is forcing me to hire my ex-wife to baby-sit my children."

According to McDonough, Small owes more than \$10,000 in unpaid child support and was jailed for contempt after refusing to pay \$500 toward the balance.

"He could be here indefinitely, but I believe the court will have to address the situation eventually," McDonough said.

An FBI agent killed by gunman

ST LOUIS, Jan. 20, (UPI): A gunman opened fire last evening on three FBI agents executing a search warrant in a robbery case, killing one of the lawmen and injuring the other two before he was gunned down himself, the FBI said.

The two wounded agents are 44 and 39, said Dave Benning, the agent in charge of the St. Louis office. He would not identify any of the three agents.

One was shot in the arm and the other was shot in the leg in the attack at a house in south St. Louis County around 7 pm they were listed in stable condition at St. Anthony's Medical Center late yesterday, said Mary Jo Goeller, a hospital spokeswoman.

"They're still running tests on them," Goeller said. "I don't know if they're going to admit them. All three arrived at 7:25 pm and each had been shot once."

She said the dead agent, who died of a head wound, was 45. "An agent was pronounced dead at 9 pm," said Benning. "He was killed while helping execute a search warrant."

The agents had gone to the house to execute the warrant against a suspect in a Jan 3 robbery at a credit union. They entered the house near Interstate 55 and a man opened fire, authorities said.

"The agents were looking for money and weapons," Benning said. "We used a SWAT team. They penetrated the door and then the shooting occurred."

FBI special agent Dick Herman said the gunman was killed in an ensuing shootout. He was identified as James Price, 45.

Treaty allows Pan Am claims

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, (Reuters): In a ruling that could affect lawsuits arising from the crash of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, a federal judge has ruled that plaintiffs can seek punitive damages under the international treaty governing air travel.

Judge John Sprizzo of the southern district of New York in Manhattan ruled on Thursday that punitive damage claims could be brought against Pan American World Airways in litigation stemming from a hijacking in Pakistan on Sept 5, 1986.

In that incident, at least 20 passengers were killed and scores were injured when four armed terrorists seized Pan Am flight 73 during a scheduled stopover at Karachi international airport. The plane was on its way from Bombay, India, to New York's John F. Kennedy international airport.

The Warsaw Convention, signed in 1929, limits an airline's liability in international disasters to \$75,000 per plaintiff unless "willful misconduct" can be proven. The treaty does not specifically state whether punitive damages can be claimed.

Punitive damages are aimed at punishing a defendant and deterring wrongdoing, as opposed to compensatory awards, which are given to cover actual costs of injuries.

"Punitive damages are part of common law tort remedies... and no language in the convention expressly pre-empts or precludes such claims," Sprizzo wrote in his opinion.

While Sprizzo's ruling is not binding on other judges, plaintiffs' lawyers hope it will influence them.

Sprizzo's interpretation of the treaty appears to differ sharply from a ruling issued this month in the Lockerbie case.

Aide defends Lucas

CALGARY, Canada, Jan. 20, (UPI): The assistant to "Star Wars" creator George Lucas testified yesterday that the filmmaker never read the script from which he is accused of stealing his endearing Ewoks characters.

Lucas's executive assistant Jane Bay testified in the federal court of Canada that Lucas doesn't open his own mail, and that unsolicited material is given unread to another assistant to be returned to the sender.

Calgary writer-producer Dean Preston is suing Lucas, Lucas Films Ltd. and 20th Century Fox Canada Ltd. for general and punitive damages of \$128 million, alleging copyright infringement and breach of implied contract.

Preston's suit alleges Lucas stole the concept and name for the characters called Ewoks — bear-like, child-sized three dwellers — from a script called "Sapce Pets" that Preston co-wrote and sent to Lucas in 1978.

"There is no way possible Mr. Lucas could have seen any unsolicited material" because "George Lucas has never opened his own mail" and all unsolicited material is given to an assistant who returns it to the sender, Bay said.

Bay said that five weeks after she was hired in August 1977, Lucas had her type up a letter for distribution to his employees that reiterated his policy that unsolicited material was to be returned unopened and unread to the sender.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More clothing seized: Police investigating the bombing of a Boeing 747 over Scotland have seized more clothes belonging to a Palestinian held in Sweden, a court official said on Thursday in Uppsala, Sweden.

The official said there would be a court hearing next Monday to approve the transfer of the clothing out of Sweden for possible use as forensic evidence. Scottish police have already taken one batch of Mohamed Abu Talb's clothes in their hunt for those responsible for planting a bomb on the Pan American jet which exploded over the village of Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people. (Reuters)

Boss branded a dinosaur: England's most outspoken judge branded his boss an ancient dinosaur on Friday for overruling his decision to send a teenage mother and her baby to prison. Justice James Picken held a news conference in a tavern called the "Inns of Court" in the northern English city Wakefield and said lord chief Justice Lane, England's second-highest judge, was wrong to criticise him. (Reuters)

Follies showgirl to run for Gov: Former Ziegfeld Follies showgirl Olga Bond Covelli announced on Friday in Carson City, NV that she was running for the office of Nevada governor.

Covelli, who gave her age as 71, became the first person to enter the race as a Republican. Incumbent governor Bob Miller is a Democrat. A Ziegfeld Follies showgirl in 1929 and 1930, Covelli said she had wide experience and was running "because I think I can help the people of this state of confusion." (Reuters)

UN chief marks 70th birthday: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar celebrated his 70th birthday Friday with a particular praise from the Soviet Union for his diplomatic efforts to end world crises.

UN spokeswoman Nadia Younes said in the United States, US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Perez de Cuellar to "wish him happy birthday."

She said the UN chief executive also received calls from several heads of government including those of Poland, East Germany, Israel, Austria and Sweden. (UPI)

Skull discovery backs theory: The discovery of the fossilised skull of a primate mammal in western Cuba has reinforced a theory that Cuba was once joined to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said on Friday in Havana.

The agency quoted experts attending a speleological conference in Havana as saying the skull, found by potholers in a cave in Pinar Del Rio province, belonged to a primate who lived on the American continent thousands of years ago. No exact date was given.

The experts discounted the theory that the primate could have reached Cuba on board some kind of primitive raft. (Reuters)

Racist wrongly nominated: Two US Senators and a Congressman helped arrange for a fringe presidential candidate whose slogan is "keep white hope alive in America" to be considered for appointment as the nation's poet laureate in Tallahassee, Florida.

Aides to US Sens. Connie Mack, Strom Thurmond, and Congressman Earl Hutto said they were unaware of Ray Robinson's racial slogan when they forwarded his request to be nominated to President George Bush's office and the Library of Congress. Their aid to Robinson, 69, of Mexico Beach was disclosed in Friday's editions of the Florida Freedom newspapers in Fort Pierce, Panama City and Fort Walton Beach. (AP)

Supercollider scientists meet: Directors of the super conducting supercollider experiment in Texas were to continue meeting with federal energy officials Friday to discuss the project, including possible cost overruns, officials said in Washington.

"I think they're going over the whole kit and caboodle," said Randy Erben, director of the Texas office of state-federal relations. (UPI)

Pianist Semprini dead: Alberto Semprini, a household name in Britain for 30 years as pianist-presenter of the "Semprini's Serenade" radio programme, died on Friday at his home in Brixham, Devon, his agent said. He was 81.

Clifford Elsom said the pianist suffered from Alzheimer's disease and died in his sleep. British-born Semprini, who had an English mother and Italian father, entertained World War I troops on the piano when he was 8 years old before going to Milan to study. He had a distinguished career as a concert pianist and conductor and was artistic director of the Italian record company, Fonit, for more than 25 years. (AP)

Pop singer Mel Appleby dies: Mel Appleby of the pop music duo Mel and Kim died Thursday after a two-year battle against cancer, her

Former US judge Goldberg dies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, (AP): Arthur J. Goldberg, former US Supreme Court Justice, labour secretary and ambassador to the United Nations, was found dead in his apartment Friday. He was 81.

Goldberg's physician, Dr. Michael Newman, said Goldberg died late Thursday or early yesterday of cardiac arrest from coronary artery disease.

Henry Fleisher, a long-time friend who said he had lunch with Goldberg Wednesday, said a maid found the former justice lying on a sofa, where he apparently had been reading a newspaper, early yesterday.

Ralph D'estefano, director of Gawler's funeral home, said Goldberg will be buried in Arlington Cemetery in Virginia just across the Potomac river from the nation's capital. The funeral arrangements were incomplete, D'estefano said.

agents said Friday. She was 22.

Ms Appleby and her sister, Kim, began their recording career in 1986 and their disco song "Showing Out" reached number two in the British singles charts.

A spokesman for Anglo-Irish, which represents the duo, said the singer was hospitalised earlier this week with a common cold.

"That turned to pneumonia and she simply hadn't the resistance to fight it," the spokesman said. (AP)



Dylan presents

Popstar Bob Dylan on stage during his presentation at Hollywood rock concert in Sao Paulo Jan 18. The concert is a part of a three-night festival where 250,000 people are expected to attend. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ex-Congressman jailed

Former Bronx Democratic New York Congressman Robert Garcia and his wife Jane Lee leave the Manhattan Federal Court House in New York after being sentenced to three years in prison for taking bribes in the Wedtech scandal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Woman acquitted in child abuse case to file suit alleging malicious persecution

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 20, (AP): A woman acquitted in a molestation case at a once prestigious nursery school said yesterday she would pursue a federal civil lawsuit alleging malicious prosecution despite death threats to her family.

Peggy McMartin Buckley, addressing a packed news conference, said she at first hesitated to become involved in further litigation.

"I said to (my lawyer) 'it is worth going to court about? I'm tired of going to court. I'm tired of enduring what I've had to endure.'"

But she said she felt those responsible for ruining

her life should have to account for it.

Mrs Buckley and her son Raymond won acquittal of 52 felony child molestation charges. Jurors in the nation's longest and costliest criminal trial Thursday deadlocked on 12 other sex abuse counts against Buckley and a single conspiracy count against him and his 63-year-old mother.

Superior court judge William Pounders declared a mistrial on the 12 counts and dismissed the deadlocked conspiracy charge against Mrs Buckley. He set a Jan 31 hearing to determine whether the 13 unresolved counts will be dismissed against Buckley.

Buckley, 31, who spent nearly five years in jail before making bail, and his mother, who was jailed for almost two years, cried as they heard the verdicts.

"If it can happen to seven innocent people it can happen to you too. If it had not been in my faith in God, I wouldn't be here today," Mrs Buckley said.

Buckley avoided reporters after the verdict. Initially, five other teachers, including Mrs Buckley's mother and daughter, were charged. The trial cost about \$15 million and lasted nearly

three years.

The lawsuit filed yesterday names as defendants Los Angeles county, the city of Manhattan Beach, former district attorney Robert Philibosian, Children's Institute International and therapist Kee McFarlane, as well as Capital Cities-ABC Inc. and its former reporter Wayne Satz.

It contended that all defendants joined in a conspiracy to have the McMartin pre-school defendants indicted. The lawsuit sought general damages of \$1 million and unspecified special damages.

Colombia vows to continue drug war

BOGOTA, Jan. 20. (AP) President Virgilio Barco warned yesterday against high expectations created by drug traffickers who say the government has won the drug war.

Barco said his administration would take the best road to ensure a final victory over traffickers, who released a statement Wednesday announcing their acceptance of defeat at the hands of the government.

In light of the drug traffickers' admission of defeat, the presidential statement said it was necessary "to take the best road to ensure the final success of the policy followed by the government, supported by the Colombian people and the international community."

The presidential communique, which was sent to Colombian and foreign media, did not specify what, if any, new steps the government would take to cement a victory over drug trafficking.

It did not mention Colombia's policy of extraditing drug-trafficking suspects wanted by the United States to that country for trial. The policy was implemented last summer to move drug traffickers out of the Colombian judicial system, which had been battered with killings, threats and bribery.

Several Colombian officials have said that the Medellin Cartel's communique was merely another attempt to lure Barco into ending extradition.

Other officials have expressed concern that the Medellin Cartel leaders are trying to persuade the government to include them in an amnesty recently offered to leftist guerrillas for past political crimes.

Barco's response appeared to rule out both an end to extradition and an extension of the amnesty to drug traffickers.

Barco reiterated the government's demand that drug traffickers fulfill their promises to cease assassinations and other terrorist violence, to free all of their hostages and to abandon their cocaine business.

The president called for the Colombian people's continued solidarity in order "to recuperate the public tranquility we all long for."

The extraditables said in their communique that they were conceding victory to the government in a drug war that was intensified last August, after traffickers gunned down a leading presidential candidate — Sen. Luis Carlos Galan.

In the communique, the group offered to abandon the cocaine trade, lay down its arms, call a halt to its terrorist campaign and release all of its hostages. In return it asked only for "constitutional and legal guarantees" from the state.

The specific guarantees were not stated.

Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds was quoted yesterday by the respected Bogota daily El Espectador as saying the government was pleased to receive the traffickers' communique and was studying it.

The communique was delivered to the government by the first of two cartel hostages that were released. Patricia Echavarría, the sister of President Barco's son-in-law, and her daughter Diana were freed Wednesday in Medellin.

Traffickers released another hostage, Mauricio Toro, on Thursday in the city after forcing the 23-year-old merchant to memorize a message for US President George Bush. The message urged Bush to take traffickers at their word when they said they were ready to surrender.

The cartel continues to hold at least 18 hostages, including Alvaro Diego Montoya, the son of Barco's general secretary and closest advisor. German Montoya.

Military intelligence forces recently discovered a plan by Colombia's largest leftist guerrilla group to fight an all-out war to take over the country within seven years, the commander of the country's army Gen. Jesus Armando Arias said yesterday.

Plan to revoke BCCI's licence

Guilty plea on money-laundering charges enough for Florida action

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Jan. 20. (UPI) State Comptroller Gerald Lewis plans to revoke the Bank of Credit and Commerce International's licence to operate in Florida, saying a proposed federal penalty against the bank is little more than "a slap on the wrist."

The bank, known as BCCI, pleaded guilty earlier this week in Tampa to federal money-laundering charges. Meanwhile, jury selection continued Friday in the trial of six other defendants charged in the \$32 million international money-laundering case linked to deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

"Money laundering is the lifeblood of drug trafficking," Lewis said. "We ought

to be really serious about it ... It is my intention to take the strongest action possible, including revocation of their licence to do business in Florida."

The bank, based in Luxembourg, has an office in Miami that lends money and takes foreign deposits. It closed its offices in Boca Raton and Tampa after being indicted on the money-laundering charges.

The trial against the six defendants remaining in the case — including Manuel Noriega's former banker, Amjad Awan; four BCCI officials and a Panamanian businessman — stem from a 33-count money-laundering and drug-trafficking indictment returned in 1988.

According to the indictment, BCCI

officers used a series of wire transfers and loans among its various bank branches world-wide to make drug profits appear to be legitimate bank deposits. Drug profits were filtered into Tampa from Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Detroit, New York and Philadelphia, the indictment said.

The indictment said BCCI officials wired money to Panama and deposited it into accounts of dummy corporations. Smugglers received cheques written from those accounts, investigators said.

Federal officials said the bank's strategy of seeking drug dealers as customers helped make it the seventh-largest privately held financial institutions in the world.

federal officials said.

On Tuesday, two BCCI divisions agreed to plead guilty to money-laundering charges and forfeit more than \$14 million in certificates of deposit bought with illegal profits.

The plea agreement requires BCCI to co-operate in other investigations, which are expected to include the drug and money-laundering cases pending against Noriega, who is in custody in Miami awaiting trial on cocaine trafficking charges. He also is charged in Tampa with marijuana trafficking.

Lewis said he is concerned that the case against the bank might not be made final until Noriega's Miami trial is completed.

Turn over Noriega records to defence

Court tells probers to avoid intimidating witnesses

MIAMI, Jan. 20. (AP) A US magistrate ordered yesterday not to destroy any documents confiscated from Manuel Antonio Noriega's homes or offices during the Panama invasion and told prosecutors to turn over an inventory of the evidence to the defence.

In an earlier hearing yesterday, a federal judge refused to order government investigators away from defence witnesses in the case of a Noriega co-defendant, but cautioned both sides to avoid intimidation.

The magistrate's ruling came after an emergency motion by Noriega defence attorney Steven Kollin, who said assistant US attorney Myles Michael Sullivan called the defence request unrealistic, saying it was almost impossible to determine which of the documents would affect Noriega's case directly.

But Kollin responded that the defence wanted everything.

"When you're a general in an army, everything is under your dominion and control," he said.

The magistrate ordered the protection and inventory of the documents, but cautioned that the defence must give more specific information of the addresses of Noriega's home in Panama City and Rio Hato and disclose which offices he occupied in the Panama defence forces headquarters and Fort Amador.

At the request of the defence, the magistrate excused Noriega from attending the session.

After the hearing, Sullivan refused to comment on Malman's reported visit to Panama City.

The magistrate said the inventory of documents from the house must be available by Thursday, the day before Noriega's bond hearing, because the defence contended some evidence from the homes may bear on that hearing.

Earlier in US district court, Judge William Hoeweler refused to order government investigators away from defence witnesses in the case of Noriega co-defendant Luis Del Cid, alleged to be one of the former dictator's right-hand men.

An attorney for Del Cid complained to the court that investigators from the Immigration and Naturalisation Service visited the defendant's wife and two friends soon after the three testified at a bond hearing Tuesday.

"These witnesses declined to go back to court today — they are terrified," said Attorney Samuel Burstyn. "They are worried about their immigration status."

According to Burstyn, the agents demanded that the women turn over all their immigration papers and give information about how they entered the United States.

Hoeweler noted that the women — Tilsa Del Cid and Norma and Eglantina Alvarez — had offered to take custody of Del Cid if he is freed on bond.

Assistant US Attorney Michael Sullivan was unapologetic about the visit to the three women, saying it was part of a wider probe. But he denied Burstyn's allegation that the INS agent accused the women of involvement in money-laundering to frighten them into silence.

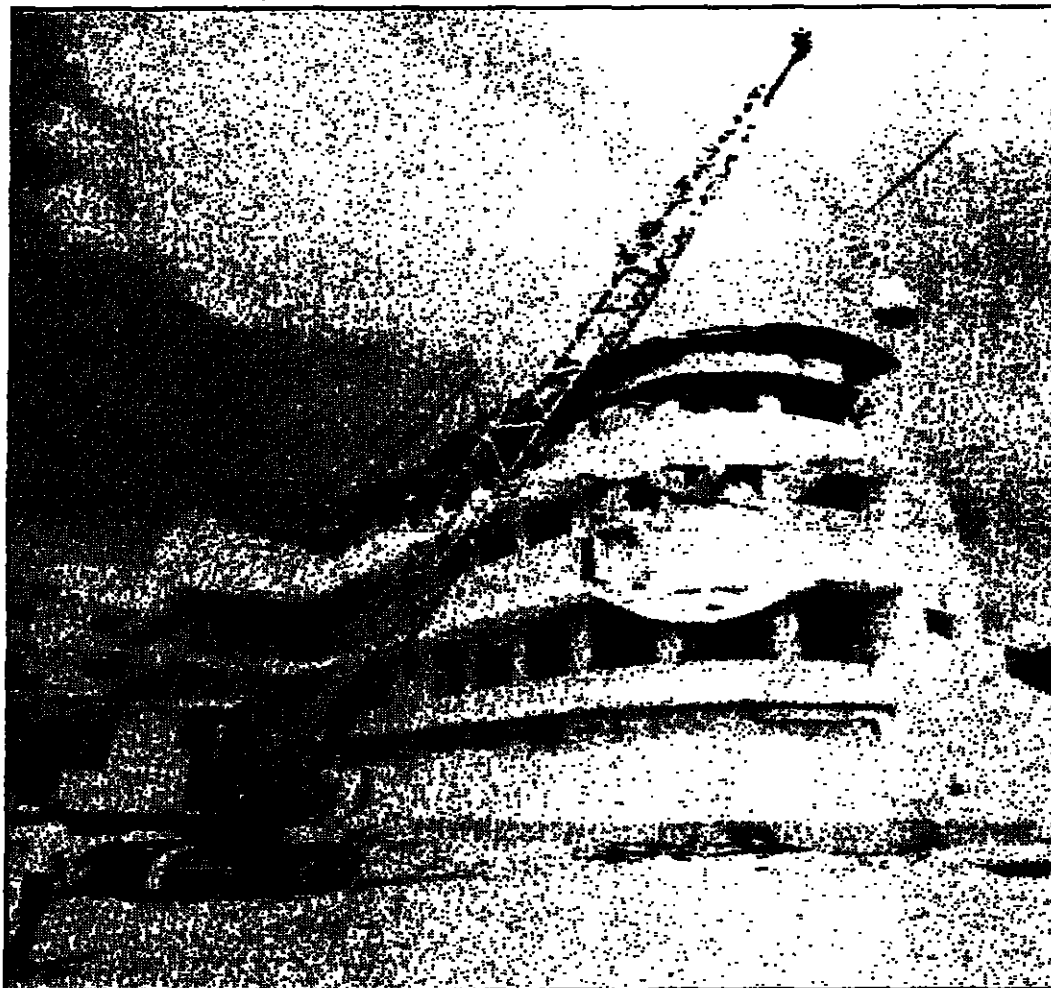
"The INS did have an ongoing investigation about alien smuggling which touched on Del Cid," the prosecutor said. "We were seeking information about this family."

Malman had travelled to Panama City to inspect material seized by US troops.

The US attorney's office did not object to the order, but warned it was uncertain how long a full inventory would take.

Kollin told US magistrate William Turnoff that Noriega's case was peculiar in the annals of criminal justice.

"This case is so different ... it's utterly different," Kollin said. "When in the past has an invasion occurred and everything in the country was taken?"



Demolition of Noriega's former HQ began. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ortega raps US meddling

MANAGUA, Jan. 20. (UPI) President Daniel Ortega accused US diplomats in Nicaragua of masterminding an opposition campaign to disrupt the economy before Feb. 25 elections, Nicaraguan media reported yesterday.

Ortega, speaking Thursday at a campaign rally in Ciudad Dario, about 60 miles (95 km) north of the capital, said US diplomats "are the ones who tell (the opposition) what to do, who to attack and how to do it."

Last month, Ortega ordered 20 US diplomats expelled from Nicaragua in retaliation for a raid by US troops on the house of the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Panama City.

Ortega said the opposition newspaper La Prensa has been "distorting and manipulating" economic stories "to create mistrust among the population."

La Prensa is owned by Violeta Chamorro, presidential candidate of the National Opposition Union and Ortega's main rival.

Panama likely to get US aid

Quayle to hold talks

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (AP) US Vice-President Dan Quayle, meeting resistance in his bid to visit some Latin American countries, will hold bilateral talks with six heads of state when he goes to Honduras later this month for the inauguration of that country's President, his office said yesterday.

On a stop in Panama, Quayle will discuss the possibility of US aid to repair the invasion-torn nation, said Quayle press secretary David Beckwith.

In Tegucigalpa, Quayle has scheduled meetings with the Presidents of Venezuela, El Salvador, Belize, Costa Rica and Guatemala, as well as with the new President of Honduras, Rafael Callejas.

Those discussions most likely will accomplish what President George Bush had in mind when he assigned Quayle to visit the region to soothe Latin objections

to the US military invasion of Panama, Beckwith said.

"If the consultations are accomplished, it reduces the urgency" of visiting those countries personally, Beckwith said. "It will fulfil the mission."

The talks give the leaders of the Latin nations an opportunity to meet with Quayle without receiving him in their own countries.

Many Latin leaders have voiced objections to receiving Quayle so soon after the Dec 20 invasion of Panama, particularly with US invasion troops still in the country.

IRA's bonus offer for Stinger

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Jan. 20. (Reuters) Four suspected members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) believed to be on a weapons-shopping expedition to Florida were ordered held without bond at a court appearance here yesterday.

The four were arrested last Friday after allegedly taking delivery of a powerful ground-to-air Stinger missile that they told undercover agents was for use against British military helicopters.

The four suspected IRA members have been ordered held without bond.

US magistrate Anne Vitmac said yesterday that Kevin McKinley, 33, Sean McCann, 34, and Joseph McColligan, 39, could pose a risk to the safety of an unidentified witness.

Vitmac ordered a fourth man in custody under the same charges, Seamus Moley, 30, held because he is a risk to flee the United States.

One suspect even offered federal undercover agents a bonus to deliver the missile to Ireland, an agent testified yesterday.

US customs agent Mark Oden, testified that the group's weapons expert offered undercover agents, who pretended to be selling the weapon, \$10,000 over and above the \$50,000 they were paying for the Stinger if they could arrange to have it delivered.

Oden identified the weapons expert as Joseph Martin McColligan, 39, who federal prosecutors say flew into West Palm Beach last Friday from Ireland to authenticate the Stinger.

The purchase had been arranged in earlier negotiations between undercover agents and the three other suspects in the case, who had told them an expert would be flying in to examine the Stinger.

One of those suspects, Kevin Joseph McKinley, 33, boasted to agents during the seven-week undercover operation that his cell within the IRA was involved in the attempted assassination in 1984 of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Four people died in a hotel bomb blast in Brighton, England.

McCann and McKinley, together with their co-defendants, Seamus Moley, 30, and Sean John McCann, 34, face the possibility of 30-year prison terms and \$250,000 fines if convicted on charges of conspiracy and arms export violations.

They were arrested last Friday after McColligan stuffed the missile into his car and attempted to drive away from a local warehouse.

Federal investigators said the suspects, apart from McColligan, had been living at a West Palm Beach caravan park for about a year and the investigation began after a suspicious resident contacted federal authorities.

One of Northern Ireland's leading Londonderry Roman Catholic bishop Edward Daly on Thursday condemned the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as ruthless, heartless murderers.

In one of the church's sharpest attacks on the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, Daly said: "They have wrecked people's lives, homes and happiness ... they have brought heartbreak to family after family."

NEWS IN BRIEF



March for loved ones

Relatives of missing persons in Chile place pictures of their loved ones on a fence in Villa Baviera, which is part of the territory of the mysterious dignity colony, Jan. 19. The demonstrators believe that their relatives were taken to the colony and were brainwashed. The march was stopped by police, who arrested one protester. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Ice' lab seized: Sheriff's deputies said in Sacramento Friday they have seized the first secret laboratory in the continental United States for making "ice," a potent new drug thought to be more addictive than crack cocaine.

The white, smokable crystals of methamphetamine made at the lab were distributed to drug dealers coast-to-coast, Sacramento County sheriff's Sgt Gary Grizzman said.

Deputies discovered the lab last weekend in the Sacramento suburb of Elk Grove on a tip from police in Colorado Springs, Colorado, who arrested two people on suspicion of possessing "ice." (UPI)

600 detained in drug swoops: Spanish police said on Friday they had detained more than 600 people in a nationwide crackdown on traffickers selling drugs to schoolchildren in Madrid.

They seized 1.5 kg (three pounds) of hashish after a series of raids near schools. (Reuters)

Korean immigrants held: Drug agents seized five kilograms (11 pounds) of "ice," or crystal methamphetamine, and about \$800,000 in cash during a raid that led to the arrest of seven Koreans, authorities said.

Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Richard Keller said the raid Thursday stemmed from the investigation and arrest on drug charges of a reputed Hawaiian crime figure, Clarence "Japan" Handa, last Jan. 6. (AP)

Bush warns Castro: Declaring "the day of the dictator is over," President George Bush Friday in Miami, advised Presidents Fidel Castro of Cuba and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua to take note of the democratic forces at work throughout Latin America.

Speaking at a political fund-raiser for Florida Gov. Bob Martinez, Bush hailed the international changes of the past year, especially in Panama where US forces invaded Dec 20 and ousted strongman Manuel Noriega, who is awaiting trial in Miami on drug-trafficking charges.

"Now the people rule in Panama," Bush said. "In fact, there are only two holdouts preventing a totally democratic hemisphere. So let Daniel Ortega and Fidel Castro take note — like the dinosaur, the day of the dictator is over." (UPI)

"Charge a miserable lie" Cordero: Former president Leon Febres Cordero said Friday he will appeal an order for his arrest issued by the supreme court on a charge of embezzlement of public funds.

The case involves the alleged payment of \$150,000 to an Israeli anti-terrorism expert in 1987 while Febres Cordero was president. He called the charge a "miserable lie." (AP)



Animals

Giuseppe Marano, 30 (left) and his wife Alessandra 26, arrested by Naples police, Jan. 19, as they tried to inject their two-year-old son David with heroin. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Attempt on mayor, outcry in Japan

NAGASAKI, Jan 20, (AP): Japanese expressed outrage yesterday over the attempted assassination of Nagasaki's mayor by an ultranationalist who said he "couldn't condone" the mayor's comments about the late emperor Hirohito.

About 300 city employees rallied outside city hall, one day after Hitoshi Motoshima was shot there by a right-wing extremist.

Motoshima had received death threats since he said in December 1988 that he felt Hirohito, at the time dying of cancer, bore some responsibility for World War II.

"The mayor was shot, but he was not the only target. Democracy is being threatened," said Yukiyoichi Sato, secretary-general of the Nagasaki City Hall Workers Union.

"They've caught the assailant, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. They'll just keep coming back," Sato said as he sat at the wheel of a van carrying a large banner reading, "bullets cannot kill democracy."

Police arrested Kazumi Tajiri, an avowed right-wing terrorist from Tokyo, and searched offices of the sane Thinkers School, the rightist group to which he belonged, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

Tajiri, 40, admitted shooting Motoshima and said he "couldn't condone" Motoshima's remarks, police told reporters. The 67-year-old mayor also said at the time that Hirohito could have prevented the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on Aug 9, 1945, and of Hiroshima three days earlier. The nuclear attack on Nagasaki left at least 70,000 people dead.

The comments infuriated Japan's small, radical right-wing fringe, who revere the imperial family and descended on city hall in sound trucks demanding "death to Motoshima." Police protection was provided until Motoshima asked that it be discontinued last month.

Following the shooting, the national police agency urged local authorities to increase their vigilance over the nation's 820 right-wing groups and recommended tighter security for public figures.

At the city hall rally, Sato said the mayor "risked his own life in fighting to protect freedom of speech and democracy. We declare our resolve to resolutely uphold these principles in the wake of this attempt to suppress them with a pistol."

Motoshima was shot once in the back, with the bullet slightly damaging his left lung. Doctors said he would recover and could leave the hospital in a month.

Government officials were quick to condemn the attack.

"It's a real shock. In Japan it's so rare for anyone to have a gun — just police and gangsters," said Mikako Umemura, a city hall employee. "For this to happen right in front of our eyes is, I think, a much bigger shock than for Americans or Europeans."

Possession of handguns is illegal in Japan, and only police, the military and strictly licensed hunters are allowed firearms.

KAL ignores measures Safety violation

SEOUL, Jan 20, (AP): Inspectors found Korean Air has violated safety and other regulations and let its pilots fly off course on some international flights to save fuel, Transportation Ministry officials said yesterday.

"Inspectors discovered many problems in KAL's management, maintenance and safety measures, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity."

The officials said details on an inspection of KAL would be released later, and they declined to link their report to the 1983 disaster in which a KAL flight was shot down by Soviet fighter planes after straying off course and allegedly entering Soviet air space.

The downing of KAL 007 in September 1983 killed all 269 people aboard the US-Korea flight, and some families have sought punitive damages in US courts, contending the plane's crew acted with willful misconduct in straying into Soviet airspace.

The airline did not comment immediately on the Transport Ministry report.

In the past KAL has denied its pilots cut short routes, though South Korean newspapers have reported such instances several times.

An inspection was launched after a KAL DC-10 jetliner crashed last June short of Tripoli airport in Libya, killing 80 people. Charges were filed against the pilot after Libyan and Korean officials concluded pilot error caused the crash.

The ministry officials said KAL was fined \$44,000 US and ordered to correct professional incompetence, unfaithful maintenance and overstrain that could lead to accidents.

The officials said the company had allowed pilots to cut short regular flights by three to 121 miles (five to 200 kilometres) on at least 14 international routes since 1980 to save fuel. The airline cut short some US-Korea routes, the officials said, refusing to elaborate.



Boat people protest.

Vietnamese boat people demonstrate at the playground in Sharn Shui Po Detention Centre Jan 19 while their countrymen were being transferred to the other centre. Tension is high in detention centres after a

group of 51 were sent back to Vietnam in a forced repatriation last month. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush's Beijing policy attacked

Democrat criticises China visits

WASHINGTON, Jan 20, (Agencies): Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine sharply attacked President George Bush's China policy yesterday, saying it is in "direct contradiction" of US ideals and puts the United States on the side of aged leaders whose "days are numbered."

Mitchell said he "strongly opposes" Bush's policy and said the administration should not "kow-tow to regressive government" that cracked down on legions of pro-democracy protesters last summer and only recently lifted martial law.

At a meeting with reporters, Mitchell criticised Bush for sending top-level missions to Beijing — both of them secret — in the months after the Chinese government massacred demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

"The wisdom of the second mission was even less apparent than after the first mission was exposed," Mitchell said, charging that the repressive measures in China had increased.

China accused Tibet torture

NEW DELHI, Jan 20, (AP): Three Tibetans said today they were beaten, tortured and held in solitary confinement by Chinese authorities trying to suppress the Tibetan independence movement.

The two Buddhist monks and a shepherd woman fled Tibet and trekked separately for two months through the Himalayan mountains to reach India, the home in exile of their leader, the Dalai Lama.

"You see this stuff in horror movies only, or in a very bad dream," said Tashi Dolma, 27, who said she was arrested in March 1988 for carrying videotapes of the Dalai Lama. "I was kept in a very small cell with my body chained." Ms. Dolma, the daughter of a shepherd, said through an interpreter at a news conference organised by the Dalai Lama's office.

Ngawang Gelek, a 28-year-old

who was a monk at the Gaden monastery, said he was arrested for throwing a stone at Chinese soldiers. He said he was tortured with scalding water and cattle prods.

"During my detention, the Chinese authorities told us, you all are Dalai's running dogs splitting a great motherland, spreading separatism, Tibet is always a part of China, and freedom is daydreaming," he said.

Dolma and Gelek said they fled for fear they would be arrested and tortured again. A third Tibetan, who was introduced only as Lobsang and identified as a 24-year-old monk, said he had seen Tibetan prisoners die of torture. He said Chinese officials broke four of his ribs and his right shoulder, and subjected him and others to electric shocks.

"But I plan to return one day to work for Tibetan independence," Lobsang said.

Mitchell said the trips showed the United States "aligning with precisely the wrong segment of that society."

Bush has steadfastly stuck to his position on China, attempting to keep lines open and opposing a crackdown, despite severe criticism from many members of congress. He hailed the lifting of martial law.

But Mitchell said, "the position taken by the President is inconsistent with American ideals and American interests and comes at an unusually wrong time given events in eastern Europe."

He said the administration's policy is "sending the wrong signal to the eastern Europeans."

"It is clearly inconsistent with our ideals," Mitchell said.

"The days of the Chinese leaders are numbered and we are aligning ourselves with a regressive communist regime of old men whose days are numbered and whose policies are exactly the opposite that American ideals represent," he said.

Mitchell said the administration was taking this approach "instead of aligning ourselves with what is clearly the wave of the future in China as elsewhere."

"It is a direct contradiction of American ideals and policy and not ... in our interests," he said.

A confrontation between Bush and Congress over China policy will come next week in an attempt to override last year's veto of a bill that would grant Chinese students, caught in the United States during the pro-democracy demonstrations and subsequent crackdown, the right to remain in this country.

The House is expected to override the veto easily and the White House is working on Senate Republicans in an effort to sustain the veto.

Mitchell noted that it would take only 34 votes to sustain the veto and pointed out that the Republicans have 45 senators.

"Whether they can succeed or not, I don't know," Mitchell said.

In an attempt to buttress the administration's position, the White House released yesterday a justice department letter about improving the immigration status of the students, estimated at 33,600.

US alters stance on refugee expulsion

WASHINGTON, Jan 20, (AP): The United States will no longer oppose Britain's decision to forcibly return boat people from Hong Kong to Vietnam, officials have announced.

In exchange for withdrawing its opposition, however, the United States is demanding a one-year moratorium of the involuntary repatriation, during which time relief workers will try to persuade the "boat people" that it is safe for them to go back to Vietnam, the officials said yesterday.

The revised US position will be presented at an 18-nation meeting in Geneva next week where a solution will be sought to the growing number of Vietnamese stranded in Hong Kong, Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Britain has indicated it will reject the year-long moratorium proposal, but a compromise — possibly of six months — is expected to emerge at the two-day meeting, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US decision, adopted after months of agonising deliberations, is certain to anger a strong lobby of Asian Americans and members of Congress opposed to any forced repatriation.

"There isn't a good solution to this," said one official. "It's simply the lesser of evils."

For months, the United States rejected any involuntary repatriation to Vietnam, citing the country's repressive communist government and extreme poverty. But the problem has grown increasingly acute with a sharp increase of refugees fleeing Vietnam in rickety boats since last spring.

More than 60,000 left Vietnam last year, the highest number since 1981, bringing to about 120,000 the number of boat people in so-called first asylum countries in Southeast Asia. A majority are in Hong Kong, and the rest in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. A small number reached Singapore and Japan.

Under a plan adopted in Geneva by 18 nations last June, 46,000 of the boat people will be resettled in the West over the next three years, about half of them in the United States.

Those who return to Vietnam receive \$630 each from the UN High Commissioner for refugees and a guarantee they will not face any reprisals or persecution.

Two Vietnamese men facing forced repatriation after being denied refugee status attempted suicide at a United Nations office in their detention centre yesterday, a UN official said.

A government spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, identified the man as Do Van Bung, 25, and Leung Tuan Thanh, 20, and said they were taken to a hospital with abdominal injuries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Caught exporting 24 girls: Police have arrested a Nigerian who was smuggling two dozen drugged young girls for sale into neighbouring Cameroon, a Lagos newspaper reported Friday.

The Lagos Concord quoted police as saying Samson Odega had seduced the children, aged between 8 and 12, and covered them with a canvas in the back of a truck.

Women hawkers discovered the children as Odega sought a boat to take them over the cross river near the Cameroon border, the newspaper said. (AP)

Vijandran granted leave: Deputy Speaker of Parliament D.P. Vijandran, who has been accused of acting in pornographic video tapes, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence, news reports said Friday.

Vijandran met with Speaker Zahir Ismail for talks on his personal problems and press reports following allegations by opposition member of Parliament Karpal Singh last month that Vijandran had acted in the videos. Zahir told the national news agency Bernama. (AP)

Seoul challenges Amnesty: South Korea challenged Amnesty International Friday, saying its charge of human rights violations and torture of prisoners in South Korea were unfounded and based on unfounded assertions.

In a statement, the government said the London-based human rights organisation has "naively taken at face value one-sided and often malicious assertions," and called its allegation of torture and ill-treatment of suspects "untruthful."

Amnesty International's report on human rights violations last year in South Korea contained "serious factual errors, unrealistic assertions and suggestions which disregard the nation's legal system," it said. (AP)

US, Vietnamese to discuss: US and Vietnamese officials discussed plans for a new joint effort next month to discover the fates of 1,700 US war victims still missing in action (MIA) in Vietnam, Manila Radio reported.

Vietnamese and American experts on the MIA issue met here on Jan 17-19, 1990 to review their work and discuss their programme of action for the coming period, the radio said in a broadcast late Friday night.

It said the experts agreed to carry out further joint efforts to find evidence of what happened to the 1,698 Americans still listed as missing in Vietnam. (UPI)

Taiwan seizes 687 guns in '89: Taiwan police confiscated about 700 guns smuggled from China which killed 91 people in 1989, a government official reported Friday.

"We are worried about the sharp increase of Chinese guns. They have escalated the worsening crime in Taiwan," said Chuang Heng-Tai, head of the Taiwan Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Chuang said the 687 guns smuggled from China in 1989, which amounted to the total seizure of illegal firearms for five previous years, also injured 60 people. (AP)

Thai-Malaysia fence work to resume: Work on the second phase of the Thailand-Malaysia border fence in Hulu Perak, 350 kilometres (210 miles) north of the capital, will resume soon, officials said Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

The project was started in 1986 to check the smuggling of drugs, rice and other goods and communist guerrilla infiltration from Thailand into Malaysia.

Perak State Chief Minister Ramli Ngah Talib said a new contractor has been named to continue building the 11-kilometre (6.6-mile) brick and wire barriers, the national news agency Bernama reported. (AP)

7 die in corporate jet crash: All seven people on board were killed when a jet owned by Eastman Kodak Co. crashed and burst into flames while trying to land at Little Rock airport in thick fog and rain on Friday, officials said.

"The bodies were strewn all along the runway," said county coroner Steve Nawojczyk.

Kodak spokesman John Labella said from company headquarters in Rochester, New York, that the Gulfstream G2 jet was diverted because of poor weather during a flight from Longview, Texas, to Batesville, Arkansas. (Reuters)

Guard of honour
Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan (left) accompanies his French counterpart Michel Rocard to inspect the guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the government house in Bangkok. Rocard is in Bangkok for a two-day official visit to Thailand. (Reuters wirephoto)

Khmer Rouge preparing an attack on Sisophon
ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, Jan 20, (Reuters): Khmer Rouge guerrillas said today they were preparing an attack on Sisophon, a government-held town in north-western Cambodia, to influence planned settlement talks.

"We have had the order to capture Sisophon," said a Khmer Rouge officer. Officials of two smaller, non-communist groups also said an attack was imminent.

Referring to international and regional talks aimed at ending the 11-year conflict, the Khmer Rouge officer said:

"We heard that something was going to happen, so we wanted to capture Sisophon before the talks start."

He added: "In the last week many volunteers from site 8 (refugees camp in Thailand) have been carrying ammunition and weapons into the area."

The guerrillas have been building up positions for several weeks around the market town, located 40 km (25 miles) from the Thai frontier on the junction of main routes across

the country to Battambang, also under attack, and the capital Phnom Penh.

A general of the non-communist Sihanoukist National Army (ANS) told reporters in Cambodia yesterday that all three guerrilla factions, including also the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), planned a joint attack.

"Sisophon is our military area of operations," KPNLF spokesman Okseai Sopheak said in an interview.

SA cuts defence forces to size

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 20, (AP): Citing declining tension in southern Africa, the government announced major defence cuts yesterday, including the disbanding of air force and navy units and big cuts in weapons production.

The cuts mainly affect the navy and air force, with naval personnel being cut by almost 25 per cent, including disbanding the country's marine corps. The air force will lose six squadrons and retire five classes of aircraft.

The current defence budget is about 10 billion rand (\$4 billion) annually. There were no figures on how much money would be saved by the cuts.

South Africa last year ended its involvement in a 23-year bush war against nationalist guerrillas in Namibia by agreeing to end its rule of the territory. Namibia is scheduled to become independent soon, probably in March.

South Africa also withdrew its forces in 1988 from Angola, where it fought alongside rebels battling the Marxist government.

In addition to the decline in regional conflicts, President F.W. de Klerk recently cited a need to redirect government spending away from the military to social welfare projects.

Lt Gen. Kat Liebenberg, acting chief of the defence force, said the cuts would make the military smaller and more economical, but would not seriously reduce South Africa's ability to defend itself.

"The defence forces will justifiably remain true to its reputation as a formidable fighting force that would compel any military force in Southern Africa to think twice before embarking on military adventures against our country," Liebenberg said in a statement outlining the cuts.

The army, the strongest arm of the defence force with some 75,000 troops, is least affected by the cuts and will remain the strongest military force in Africa. Neighbouring black African states have much smaller, weaker armies.

Liebenberg said South Africa still needed strong defence forces despite the reduction in tension in the region.

The big cut involving the army was the cancellation of 11 major weapons systems under development, the statement said. Another 49 projects were reduced or delayed, it said.

Army operating costs will be drastically curtailed, the statement said.

■ **Crowds in black townships** attacked and killed two suspected witchdoctors, beating one and stoning the other, South African police said today.

■ **Mozambique:** A strike by nurses has paralysed the main hospital in Mozambique's second largest city and is blamed for the deaths of at least four patients, the national news agency reported Friday.

■ **Right-wing Renamo rebels** attacked a town in the southern Mozambican province of Inhambane, killing 19 civilians and wounding another 17, the state-run news agency Aim said yesterday.

French, Thais support

BANGKOK, Jan 20, (UPI): The Prime Ministers of France and Thailand today declared strong support for Cambodian peace talks set for Indonesia in February and promised to help reconstruct the economies of the region once there is peace.

"We are in favour of the kind of regional meeting that has been proposed by Indonesia," French Prime Minister Michel Rocard told a news conference after his meeting with Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

"France very much wants these conversations to take place," he said. "We are convinced this is possible, necessary and we want to do it."

Thai government spokesman Suwit Yodmanee said the Jakarta meeting now was set for either Feb 22-24 or Feb 26-28. Previously no dates had been made public.

Rocard said Thailand and France were ready to assist the economic recovery of Indochina once peace is returned to Cambodia, but gave no details.

He said he expected the talks to be difficult but said there was a chance for success. If the regional talks fail to reach a conclusion, France is prepared to reconvene the wider international talks it co-chaired with Indonesia last year in Paris, he said.

LDP starts campaign

Japan polls next month

TOKYO, Jan 20, (Reuters): Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), weakened by scandal and an unpopular sales tax, launched its campaign today for next month's general election, the first in decades which it is not guaranteed to win.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, fresh from a tour of Eastern and Western Europe, urged 2,000 people at an emotional LDP convention to fight for victory in the polls, which party elders have called for February 18.

In a speech which won him a standing ovation, Kaifu played up his recent tour. "I experienced the turning point in history during my European visit," he said.

"It has turned into a big wave towards liberalism, democracy and a market-oriented economy, away from an ineffective controlled economy under socialism or communism, the trend of the present-day world flows towards liberalism and democracy. This tells that the path we have chosen is correct."

Kaifu promised Japan's restless farmers that he would support Japanese self-reliance in agriculture and stick to the policy of self-sufficiency in rice. Rice imports are banned.

Last year the LDP lost control of the upper house of parliament for the first time in 34 years after its popularity was badly dented by a shares-for-favours scandal, a new sales tax and moves to open farm markets.

But the fragmented left-wing opposition has failed to agree on a coalition platform to fight the LDP in the coming election for the lower house, which controls the government. The ruling party, meanwhile, has regained some of its popularity.

There are 512 seats in the lower house, where the LDP holds 294. It needs to keep 257 to retain power. At present, most political analysts believe it will scrape through.

LDP Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa said on Thursday the party was certain to win at least 235



Kaifu: shaky

seats. But as many as 35 other candidates were "on the border line," he said.

The LDP has presided over Japan's growth from a country devastated by World War Two into an economic superpower.

■ Kaifu today warned the West not to forget its problems amid the historical changes in the Soviet Union and East Europe.

In his first speech since his return from a tour of Eastern and Western countries, Kaifu welcomed East European countries' march towards liberty and democracy and free market economy.

Mongolian march may end in clash

BEIJING, Jan 20. (Reuters): Mongolia's infant democracy movement plans to demonstrate tomorrow despite a government ban and a resident said there could be clashes.

The government banned unauthorised protests on Thursday but members of the pro-democracy Mongolian Democratic Union have not said they will desist, the diplomat said by telephone from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator today.

"It is hard to say what will happen on Sunday,

but there could be a clash," he said.

He said talks were going on between the pro-democracy group and city authorities, who have appealed to them not to demonstrate.

"The city authorities insist that there'll be no demonstration, but the democratic union has made no such promise," he said.

The streets of Ulan Bator were calm today, he said.

Local residents were hungry for news about the movement, the diplomat said. "The news-

papers here were running a lot about it."

Last Sunday about 5,000 people participated in Mongolia's biggest demonstration in recent history. The one planned for tomorrow in Ulan Bator's main square was supposed to be larger.

Mongolia's fledgling democracy movement was born about a month ago, encouraged by the crumbling of communism in East Europe. The first official meeting of the Mongolian Democratic Union was on Dec 10, the diplomat said.

It is composed mostly of young people, mainly students and workers, the diplomat said. "They're rather vague about exactly what they want, apart from broad demands for more democratic freedoms, labour and economic reforms," the diplomat said.

Isolated Mongolia, wedged between China and the Soviet Union, is three times the size of France but has only two million people. After the Soviet Union, it was the first nation to declare itself a communist state.

Romania discounts revenge attacks

BUCHAREST, Jan 20.

(Reuters): Romania's deputy state prosecutor has dismissed suggestions that former members of the dreaded Securitate secret police are planning revenge attacks on executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's birthday next week.

Deputy Prosecutor General Gheorghe Diaconescu also said in an interview published today that some Securitate agents who had not been involved in fighting to keep Ceausescu in power had been freed, but he gave no figures.

Diaconescu told the newspaper Adevarul rumours that Securitate members still at large planned to stage surprise attacks on Ceausescu's birthday next Friday were "a lie".

Such rumours were "part of a psychological offensive that started simultaneously with the terrorist attacks and which continued after the attacks ceased," he said.

Many former Securitate officials were arrested after the Dec 22 uprising which toppled Ceausescu but many people fear that "terrorists" — as they are popularly known — remain at large.

"We are close to zero when it comes to terrorists who are free and able-bodied in the territory of our country," Diaconescu said.

Some had fled abroad soon after the revolution, he added, but he gave no details.

The Securitate dominated all aspects of Romanian life until the revolution. All citizens had to report conversations with foreigners to the secret police.

Ceausescu, who would have celebrated his 72nd birthday next Friday, was executed with his wife Elena on Christmas day.

Asked if some Securitate officials had been released in the city of Brasov, Diaconescu replied: "Yes, precisely."

Reuters correspondent Ian Mackenzie was told during a visit to Brasov that people had been seized by the army and civilians during fighting in the city but prosecutors had later freed at least some of them for lack of evidence.

Romania's new government implicitly criticised US policy yesterday saying there was no sign of closer relations since the end of communist rule four weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac expressed the first official disappointment with the Bush administration, which has yet to send a top-level envoy to Bucharest.

The resurgent National Peasants' Party (NPP) of Romania yesterday accused members of the country's new government of helping to bribe executed communist dictator Ceausescu to power 25 years ago.

East wind hits Nepal

KATHMANDU, Jan 20. (UPI): A three-day opposition gathering has largely agreed to launch a mass movement for greater democracy on Feb 18, the senior leader of the banned Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, told United Press International today.

The three-day meeting was kicked off Thursday with one of the largest mass meetings in the Nepalese capital in recent times. The meeting was attended by several Indian parliamentarians who were denounced by government supporters for their participation.

"All the speakers have so far approved the date proposed by the working committee. The only difference in the conference is whether to concentrate the movement to the capital or make it more broad-based," Singh said in an interview at his residence.

Yugoslav reds clash

Vote on key reform document delayed

BELGRADE, Jan 20. (AP): Hardline and liberal communists clashed today at a party congress over the pace of democratic reforms and decided to delay a vote on a key reform document.

The document declares the ruling party's willingness to relinquish its 45-year monopoly of power and to support free elections and formation of independent political parties. Elections are tentatively scheduled for April.

On Friday, the government said it would submit similar con-

stitutional amendments to Parliament.

Party President Milan Pancevski reportedly told the Congress in his opening address the current system of one-party socialism had "objectively exhausted its possibilities for development."

The opening of the congress, broadcast live on Belgrade TV, was marked by heated debate, with some delegates demanding cautioning against a rushed decision.



Might is right

A group of armed Azerbaijani militants meet at the headquarters of the republic's radical Popular Front in the second largest town of Azerbaijan. The poster reads: "Freedom for Azerbaijani People." (Reuters wirephoto)

Bulgaria faces labour unrest

Zhivkov Nazi agent

SOFIA, Jan 20. (AP): The Bulgarian leadership is facing a wave of labour unrest, state news agency reported yesterday. The ruling communists, meanwhile, continue preparing for a party congress likely to approve introduction of multi-party democracy and other political and economic reforms.

In another development, deposed party boss Todor Zhivkov was accused in the media of having been a Nazi intelligence agent in wartime Bulgaria. Zhivkov also has been charged with wrongdoing in office and other crimes.

The Jan 30 party congress will be the first since his Nov 10 ouster.

The Bulgarian state news agency BTA reported yesterday that more than a hundred labour conflicts had been registered by the newly formed independent Bulgarian trade unions in the period between Dec 25 and Jan 10.

BTA said the primary strike demands included disclosure of their company's financial and technical status, a cutback in bureaucracy, the dismissal of discredited managers, better supply of raw materials and equipment and improvement of working conditions and safety.

East, according to administration spokesman, but they did not rule out a reduction.

US "force levels in the region are based on the long-term threat and our force levels are based on a rational analysis of that threat in the region," said a Defence Department spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist.

"We continually review our force posture and do so in full consultation with our allies so that we can determine the appropriate levels of deployment," he said.

A State Department official read an identical

Kremlin compelled to send troops

(Continued from Page 1)

situation under control," Bessmertnykh said.

At Azerbaijan's representative office in Moscow, mission chief Sohrab Ibragimov told reporters he had heard "hundreds" had died, but said he had no confirmation of this information.

Other Front representatives in Moscow, and some in Baku, gave wildly conflicting death figures, some ranging into the thousands. When questioned they said their estimates were based on unconfirmed reports.

Ibragimov criticised Gorbachev indirectly for allowing the situation in his republic to reach the point where Moscow saw no alternative to military action.

"This situation could have been avoided if the country's highest leadership, including Mikhail Gorbachev, had gone to Azerbaijan, and met with representatives of public opinion," he told the Soviet and foreign journalists present.

In Baku, residents said the centre of the city was now controlled by the army, with tanks and armoured cars on major streets and squares.

"Patrols of troops are checking private cars, apparently for weapons," said Nazim Ragimov, a journalist.

Residents said the radio was constantly broadcasting an address by the city's military commander explaining why the army action had been taken. "The decision to impose emergency did not come easily to us," one resident quoted him as saying.

In Moscow, Tass quoted the unidentified commander as saying the Soviet government had hoped that order could have been restored in the city without recourse to military measures, "and that common sense would prevail."

This did not happen. All means were exhausted. There was only one choice left, rampaging extremism or law and order and a return to normal life," he declared, according to the agency.

Ships sounded their sirens and cars flew black banners in Baku today in mourning for dozens of people killed when the Soviet Army seized control of the city from Azerbaijani nationalists, Moscow Radio said.

Armenian gunmen are staging lightning raids on isolated mountain villages in Azerbaijan but in other areas Azerbaijani nationalists appear in firm control.

Tehran Radio said thousands more streamed into Iran this morning across a border bridge in Astara, a resort town on the Caspian Sea with a population of 36,000 and several hotels.

The radio, said most Soviet Azerbaijanis who travel to Iran return to the Soviet Union the same day, after visiting relatives or purchasing goods.

However, the Islamic republic news agency, said arrangements were being made to house half of the 30,000 Soviet Muslims who have crossed into Iran over the past few days in Ardebil, west of Astara.

statement when asked whether the United States would respond to the Soviet announcement by cutting its own forces in the Far East.

Administration officials discussed Cheney's mission only on condition they not be further identified because the trip has not been announced. They declined to disclose the exact timetable for agenda.

The cut in the number of Soviet MiG-23 "Flogger" fighters and TU-16 "Badger" bombers, announced in Moscow on Thursday, will enhance "regional stability" and was part of a reduction in Soviet operations abroad over the past two years,

Several delegates from the liberal northern republic of Slovenia urged the document be adopted as one of the first agenda items. But hardliners, mostly from the largest republic of Serbia, called for it to be discussed in committee and adopted with other documents at the end of the congress.

The reform document, published last week in the Yugoslav press, says the one-party system "has pushed us into autocracy and prevented us from keeping up with the economic, technological, political and social changes in Europe and the world."

It calls for "free, direct and secret elections" and declares the party's acceptance of the right to freely form political organisations.

Pancevski, in an advance text of his speech, said Yugoslavia must embrace market-oriented economic reform and guarantee free expression and political pluralism.

"This also means the definite abandonment of the single-party view of political relations. Through the affirmation of new democratic reforms, we must ensure... the freedom from any monopolies on power," said the text reported by the national news agency Tanjug.

"The building... of a system that will constantly increase human rights and freedoms, that will strengthen democracy and that will ensure the free expression of political pluralism and an efficient state based on the rule of law" are imperative to the country's development, he said in the text.

The congress is scheduled to choose a new party chief.

Retired Gen. Dusan Pekic proposed that the party call on Parliament to urgently adopt the constitutional amendments to delete the party's leading role. His motion was voted down.

In a vote on whether to adopt the document immediately, 780 delegates supported the motion and 645 opposed it. The motion failed because it required support from 67 per cent of the voting delegates, or at least 955 votes.

Stefan Korosec, who presided over the session, said the document would be debated in committee sessions and voted on at the conclusion of the congress.

Several delegates said the debate and voting, which lasted for more than two hours, took place in confusion. Some called for Korosec to be replaced in presiding over the session.

The congress was called four months early in the wake of the country's growing political and economic crisis. The ruling party, embroiled in internal clashes over how far to go in implementing reform, has stalled on making changes considered necessary to overcome the country's problems.

■ Prague: Czechoslovakia, whose communist government was toppled by a peaceful revolution, plans to cut back the size of its military and the length of soldiers' service, a daily newspaper said.

■ Albania: An Italian senator Giulio Orlando, who spent three days this week in Albania said on Friday he saw no sign of a security crackdown in that communist country as reported in the Yugoslav media.

■ UN and Albanian officials are working on arrangements for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to visit the isolated European country, a spokeswoman said.



Rajneesh died of a heart attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajneesh cremated

Death prompts three widows

PUNE, Jan 20. (Agencies): Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, self-proclaimed "rich man's guru" who was kicked out of the United States after setting up a controversial commune in Oregon, died of a heart attack yesterday at age 58, officials said.

The guru, who had been calling himself Osho in recent years, died at 5.30 pm, according to followers at his commune in Pune, 750 miles (1,200 km) southwest of New Delhi. His body was cremated five hours later.

Dr Gokul Gokani, the guru's personal physician, said the cause of death was massive coronary thrombosis, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Followers of the advocate of free love and wealth sobbed when the death was announced to 5,000 disciples at the guru's sprawling commune.

Followers at his commune in the southwest city of Pune celebrated his spirit's release with joyous songs and dances, his spokesman Swami Chaitanya Kirri said by telephone.

Celebrations started as soon as the news of Rajneesh's death was conveyed to 10,000 followers at the commune, Swami Prabhod said.

"Everybody is singing and celebrating," Prabhod said. "The Osho had told us to celebrate when he left his body."

Rajneesh had switched from using the honorific

Hindi word for God, "bhagwan," a year ago in favour of the Buddhist term Osho, which means "on whom the heavens shower flowers."

The death of Rajneesh prompted three of his disciples to declare themselves his "widows," one of whom stabbed herself in grief today, the Press Trust of India reported.

The unusual incident of the women declaring themselves widows occurred in a local Rajneesh commune in Gaziabad town, located just outside the Indian capital.

One of the women — identified as Sharda — stabbed herself during a prayer session for the guru. Commune residents said she was taken to a hospital,

the news agency reported.

Commune spokesman Swami Amrito read a message he said Rajneesh prepared for his followers soon before his death.

"I am leaving this tortured body because it has become hell for me," it said. "My presence would now be greater here. Don't cry for me. My presence will be always with you."

His followers broke into songs and chanted, "Osho, Osho, Rajneesh, Rajneesh," one commune resident said.

Four disciplines carried the black velvet-draped body of a Hindu-style bamboo bier into a commune auditorium, where more than 5,000 followers, most of them foreigners, joined the procession to a river-bank crematorium.

The guru's brothers and 70-year-old mother, Amrit Saraswati, were at his bedside when he died, followers said.

The guru was born Shree Rajneesh Chandra Mohan on Dec 11, 1931, in a small village in central India, the eldest of seven brothers and five sisters. He was a philosophy teacher and nearing 40 when he established a meditation centre known as ashram, 75 miles (120 km) southeast of Bombay.

Rajneesh moved to the United States in 1981, preaching a mix of enlightenment, opulence, capitalism and free love that shocked neighbours in the rural Pacific northwest Oregon community of Antelope, where disciplines helped him establish a city called Rajneeshpuram on a local ranch.

His paradise fell apart in 1985 amid charges his top aide was trying to rule the commune and murder him. In 1985, the frail, bearded Bhagwan — or "blessed one" — was ordered out of the United States for immigration law violations.

In Oregon, Antelope Mayor Jean Opray, said she was not disappointed by news of Rajneesh's death. "If he were here, I'd be elated," she said. "There isn't anytime I would wish anyone dead, but I sure wished him gone a lot."

Militants kill 8 in Punjab

NEW DELHI, Jan 20. (UPI): Sikh separatists posing as police officers

opened fire in a village in northern Punjab state, killing eight people including six Hindus, the Press Trust of India news agency reported today.

Local officials told the agency about 10 gunmen, some dressed as law officers, Friday evening entered the village of Bawanwal, 260 miles (420 km) northwest of New Delhi.

The group told residents they had come to recruit volunteers for a special police post planned for the village. But during the night, the gunmen forcibly took six Hindus to the outskirts of the village and shot them, the agency said.

The Press Trust reported the attackers later killed a police official and a milk vendor.

More than 6,000 people have died in extremist-related violence since Sikh militants began waging their blood campaign in 1983. Their goal is to set up a theocratic state to be called "Khalistan" or "Land of the pure" in Punjab, where Sikhs are in slight majority.

The militants target Hindus in an attempt to force them to leave the state.

The militants say they want a separate state because members of their faith — some 16 million throughout India — are discriminated against by the central government, which is dominated by Hindus.

At least 1,810 people died last year in Punjab state in violence related to the Sikh extremist insurrection, a drop in fatalities over 1987, the PTI reported.

According to the statistics released in the Punjab capital of Chandigarh, the highest number of killings by extremists — some 120 deaths — occurred in November, and the lowest number — 75 deaths — in September.

UNP arming killer squads

Lift emergency: Bandaranaike

COLOMBO, Jan 20. (Reuters): Sri Lankan opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike appealed to the government yesterday to end the country's state of emergency and repeated accusations of death squads being deployed to murder political opponents.

"If they destroy us, then they can stay in power for as long as they want," Bandaranaike, leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), told the party's national convention in Colombo.

Bandaranaike said the ruling United National Party was training and arming killer squads and sending them out to different parts of the country to murder SLFP supporters.

The government denied the charge after Bandaranaike first made the accusation in Parliament on January 12.

Bandaranaike appealed to the government to lift the state of

emergency so that the country could function normally.

"In eastern Europe people took to the streets to fight against repressive laws," she said. "The government thinks Sri Lankans will always suffer patiently, but one day that patience will end."

The national convention, due to have been held last year, was postponed because of the "frightening" situation in the country, the opposition leader and former prime minister said.

Even now, Bandaranaike charged, party supporters lived in fear of their lives. "They are even frightened to say they belong to the party."

Despite the government's assertion that the left-wing People's Liberation Front, which is trying to overthrow the government, had been defeated, she said killings were still going on. "Bodies are still being burnt on tyres," she said.



KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Arts
Department of English
Cultural Committee

The Cultural Committee of the English Department has pleasure in inviting you to its 55th seminar:

Theme : "Machine Translation"
Speaker : Prof. Yuri Marchuk,
Chairman of Applied Linguistics Dept.,
Ex-Director of the Translation Institute, AUY University
Date : Sunday 21st January, 1990
Time : 6:00 P.M.
Location : Room 312, Building 5 (Opposite English Dept. Bldg., Shuwaikh)
Afterwards tea will be served.

Cultural Committee

Washington applauds Soviet pullout from Vietnam base: No plan to cut US forces

WASHINGTON, Jan 20. (AP): Government spokesman yesterday applauded the withdrawal of some Soviet warplanes from Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam and said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney will discuss possible responses when he visits US allies in the Far East next month.

Cheney plans to travel in mid-February to Japan, Korea and the Philippines, three nations where the United States has major bases, administration officials said.

The Soviet announcement was not expected to lead to an immediate cut in US troops in the Far

East, according to administration spokesman, but they did not rule out a reduction.

US "force levels in the region are based on the long-term threat and our force levels are based on a rational analysis of that threat in the region," said a Defence Department spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist.

"We continually review our force posture and do so in full consultation with our allies so that we can determine the appropriate levels of deployment," he said.

A State Department official read an identical

statement when asked whether the United States would respond to the Soviet announcement by cutting its own forces in the Far East.

Administration officials discussed Cheney's mission only on condition they not be further identified because the trip has not been announced. They declined to disclose the exact timetable for agenda.

The cut in the number of Soviet MiG-23 "Flogger" fighters and TU-16 "Badger" bombers, announced in Moscow on Thursday, will enhance "regional stability" and was part of a reduction in Soviet operations abroad over the past two years,

said a Defence Department spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist.

"We welcome that announcement," Lundquist said. "This is part of their overall reduction of overseas operations," and had been spotted by the Defence Department before the Soviet statement.

At the State Department, spokeswoman Margaret Turville said US officials "anticipated that less Soviet military involvement in southeast Asia would contribute to regional stability and to efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian conflict."

New book on Gulf - W. Germany

BONN, Jan 20, (Kuna): A new German book discussing Gulf-West German relations was published recently here.

The book was written by a group of German professors specialised in Arab and Gulf affairs and includes six studies that deal with the span of relations between GCC states and West Germany, in addition to faces of co-operation.

The book contains major information about the GCC states and their economic accomplishments.

Professor Frayer, from the University of Bonn, wrote a study about Kuwait-West German relations and the importance of Kuwaiti investments in West Germany.

He described this field of co-operation as an example to be followed in relations between developing and industrial countries.

The book is considered the first of its kind that reflect a picture of Gulf-West German ties.

Arab states seeking alternatives to imprisonment

Rehabilitation of prisoners main object

KUWAIT, last week, participated in the 5th International Conference on research for the prevention of crime, organised by the Arab Centre for Security Studies based in Riyadh.

The first session discussed two researches, one pertained to passing criminal sentences in the Arab states while the other focused on overcrowded jails in the Arab jails and the alternatives to sentencing accused to imprisonment.

The first research was submitted by Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Zaid and focused on the objectives of alternative procedures used in Europe, USA and in

the Arab states.

The other research was submitted by Dr Hussein Al Rifai in which he explained the attempts of jail authorities to socially reform prisoners so that they can qualify for a new life on their release. The research stressed the need to follow-up on prisoners after their release so as to give them every encouragement and support.

However, the researchers said that jails in many countries of the world and in Arab countries in particular fail miserably in providing rehabilitation services and follow-ups of released prisoners. He

added that these jails are crowded with prisoners which gives fertile ground for breeding more corruption and plans for crime.

Experience

Sentencing a prisoner causes many problems for the state, financially, socially, psychologically and is a traumatic experience both for the prisoner and immediate members of his family. In the latter case, jailing of the sponsor of the family usually leads to delinquency of the convicts children, the researcher said.

He added that jails have failed to be the

correct solution to reforming prisoners. He said that some countries in the world have resorted to alternative forms of punishment, such as community service, probation periods, or working free of charge in the convicts specialisation.

Terrorism

The researcher commented that societies have social, cultural and religious values that could be used to find solutions to security and social problems, instead of such persons being confined to jails.

The second session discussed a research submitted by Dr Emad Hussein

on preparations undertaken to address terrorists who hijack planes. He said that national legislations and undertaking international treaties to address hijacking of aircraft and other terrorist acts should be undertaken.

Authorities could also take preventive action by stepping up security procedures at airports and also establish special forces such as "sky marshals" to counteract international terrorism.

The session also discussed another research submitted by Dr Mustafa Kara on strategies and plans to be developed to stop organised crime in the Arab states.

Labourers to be protected: Omar

Department to solve disputes

By Bassam Qasas

THE director for the Hawalli and Farwaniya Labour Department Adnan Al Omar has said that flexibility of the decision on the ability of workers to transfer their work permits from one sponsor to another is attributable to the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Naser Mohammad Al Ahmed, who endorsed the decision.

He told Al Seyassah that the presence of 22,000 labour files at the ministry for the various labour installations in the country were fairly recently computerised. Manipulation and processing of these files had given rise to a number of problems, which would soon be overcome.

Omar said that the collection of KD 250 from employers for each of their staff was intended as a financial guarantee to protect the employees rights. He added that the decision applied to all types of transactions, whether these be for renewal, cancellation and transfer or issue of a new work permit.

He said that the department was planning to set up an information office to answer queries of the public relating to the documents required for the different types of transactions, in a bid to save time.

Commenting on labour dis-

putes involving employer-worker relations, he said that the department would try to settle all disputes brought to its attention by peaceful reasoning, particularly disputes arising from failure of the employer to pay the workers' dues. Otherwise the department would reluctantly have to seize the property of the sued employer in a bid to pay up the dues of his workers.

He said that the department has assigned special teams to investigate non-existent work installations, and that many were demolished for failure to operate in line with their practice licence. Others were found to have been relocated without previous notification to the department of their new address.

The failure to notify the department of the installation's new address would create difficulty to personnel inspectors who would fail to locate installation, as this fell within the department's policy of regular investigation of licensed installations to ensure that they were operated by their licences, Omar said. The number of workers mentioned in their files and whether they actually require more personnel for planned expansion is also checked by inspectors, Omar said.

The purpose of the issued ministerial decision No. 87 for 1989 regulating labour in the private

sector under which workers could not transfer their residence permits to other employers before spending a minimum of three years with their current employer was to ensure stability of the employer-worker relations and to ensure that the worker had acquired adequate experience in his line of work, Omar said.

Exceptions
He added that under the same decision, exceptions were made possible by the minister in certain exclusive cases.

Commenting on a question about the potential flexibility with the clauses of the decision regarding the transfer from one sponsor to another before the elapse of the mandatory three years, he said that the minister forecasted that the enforcement of the decision would result in field remarks which would be tackled as they arose and as deemed necessary by the minister.

He said that endorsement of the ministerial decision No. 89 for 1989 on the private sector workers' financial guarantee was intended to sort out the existing negative phenomena in the worker-employer relations and the need to protect the rights of workers which would decrease the number of lawsuits involving labour disputes that had failed to respond to amicable efforts.

Higher council on water proposed

By Youssef Alawneh

THE establishment of a higher council on water resources will reportedly be announced within the coming few days, Seyassah has learnt.

The proposed council would be in charge of all matters related to water resources. Other functions of the proposed council would include the drawing up of policies to develop existing water resources.

Members

It expected that the Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah would chair the proposed council, which would include among its members the assistant chairman of the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Ahmad Al Nageeb and the assistant under-secretary for international organisations at the Planning Ministry Mariam Al Awadi and the deputy director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr Nizar Mulla Hussein.



Barjes meets with mayors

The Governor of Hawalli Abdulatif Mohammed Al Barjes held a meeting with the mayors of the governorate's different areas, the Ministry of Interior's Public Relations Department reported.

It added that the meeting dealt with the last year's performances and the problems facing the citizens in the relevant areas.

The Governor AlBarjes confirmed in the meeting

the importance of co-ordination for the provision of the necessary services to citizens. He confirmed the importance of co-operation between the Governorate, Council members and the mayors of the area (Mukhtars). Governorate councils were formed last year so that people could directly present their problems to their area representative. Picture shows Governor AlBarjes presiding over the meeting.

Duaij slams US stance

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti official was quoted here today denouncing the United States for reducing its contributions to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which Washington wants to punish for lending humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

Board chairman of the Kuwaiti Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah told a local daily the US, as a super-power of global commitments, must not discriminate between nations particularly so at this stage of international détente.

Earlier in the week the US told a FAO conference in Rome it was cutting down its annual financial dues to the organisation after the world body decided to lend aid to the Palestinian people, in the Israeli-occupied areas.

Sheikh Ibrahim indicated that Palestinians were one of the most oppressed people in the world and should not deserve such a hostile US attitude over a "purely humanitarian issue".

Noting that the US position has been rejected by UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuelar, he said anyone who sees the daily sufferings of Palestinians under occupation would condemn the American move.

26 ships added to Arab blacklist

KUWAIT, Jan 20 (Kuna): The Israeli boycott bureau here has decided to blacklist 26 ships and six films and to lift the boycott on three American and British companies and their overseas subsidiaries.

The ships, which have been boycotted for frequenting Israeli ports are: the Danish Heinrich Jessen which changed its name to the Turkish Zigana, the Cypriot Sunrise, Sailer I, Sailer II and Pontiki Dora. Also boycotted are the Greek Paros, Parapola and Zim Yokohama, the Italian Po, the Dutch Mordic and Miriam Borchard of Antigua and Barbuda.

The bureau also boycotted Orion of Antigua and Barbuda, the Maltese New Venture, the West German Njord and the Panamanian Mild Victory.

The bureau also decided to blacklist a number of ships already boycotted but under different names. Of those are: the Liberian Sea Bird with its new name of Emer II after carrying a Turkish flag, the Filipino General Gabal which was Norwegian-registered Bruni, the Israeli Leonor Abora which was registered as a Dutch Abora, the Greek Nissos Skiathos with its new name of Skiathos Reeder.

The bureau also decided to boycott six movie films, namely Memories Of Me because the already blacklisted Alan King has taken part in it, Duet For One, Rumpelstiltskin, Barbarians, The Frog Prince, Kijite and Hanna's War because they are produced and distributed by the banned American Cannon Groups Inc., and the Israeli Yoram Globus and Menahem Golan companies.

The bureau also decided to endorse the name of Bantam Doubleday Dell for the already boycotted American Bantam Book Inc.

The Israel Boycott Bureau decided to lift the ban on the British Cadbury-Schweppes Ltd and its 304 overseas branches, the American RCA and its 248 subsidiaries and the American Rexnord Inc. and its 95 international branches.

Draft law on drugs

A MEETING was held last week to discuss a draft law related to the practice of pharmacology and the unification of prices of drugs at private pharmacies.

Dr Nael Al Naqib, under-secretary at the Ministry of Health said that the committee took the decision to wait for a period of one month to complete finalising a study to determine the level of these prices in relation to the fluctuations of foreign currencies abroad.

In this relation, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, planning minister and acting minister of public health, who carried the meeting said that a decision had been taken two years ago to organise rules and regulations pertaining to the price of medicines in the private sector.

The decision set 70 per cent as the maximum level of profit based on the imported value. This percentage is distributed as 35 per cent going to the importer and 35 per cent to the owner of the private pharmacy.

The draft law will be referred to the Council of Ministers, Awadi said.

Satellite fade out feared

THE Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan has said that the Arab telecommunication satellite Arabsat will die out by the end of next year and commented that the delay by most Arab countries to set up and equip their land stations minimised the chances of optimally using this technological facility.

He told a daily that Arabsat was intended to increase the operational age of the satellite by three or four more years until the third Arabsat was launched for an operational period of 10 years.

He said that the ministerial committee on Arabsat considered the feasibility of using Arabsat for commercial purposes with benefits shared between governments and the private sector.

The current Kuwait contribution to Arabsat constitutes 14.59 per cent of the total capital, standing at KD 163 million, while the Saudi kingdom share is 36 per cent.

A MAN was sentenced to ten years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for sexually assaulting his maid.

The court was told that on the day of the incident, the accused came home from work early in the morning while his wife was at work. He then forcibly took the maid into his bedroom and raped her.

He then left the house after locking the door to prevent the maid from complaining. However, the maid found a duplicate key which was kept under the TV set and reported the incident to the police.

A MAN was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation and also ordered to pay a fine of KD4000 on being convicted of several charges.

The accused was found guilty of dealing in narcotics, alcohol, entering the country illegally, using an unregistered vehicle and driving without a driving licence.

Alongwith the accused, three men were also sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation and a fine of KD4000 for assisting the first accused to smuggle 780 whiskey bottles, in addition to smuggling 3000 narcotic tablets.

A MAN was sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour for raping his elder sister while he was still a juvenile. The court also upheld the charge that he tried to also rape his younger sister.

The incident was reported by the step mother of the convict who told the court that while she was abroad with her husband who needed medical treatment, the accused raped his elder sister at their residence. However, to save the family's name, the sister declined from making the incident public.

Subsequently, the step mother, her father and her other sister alongwith herself moved to another house and the accused

moved to an apartment of his own.

One night, the accused entered the house and attempted to rape the younger sister, who screamed which brought the neighbours to the scene and the convict was apprehended.

THE court sentenced a man to two years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for trespassing with criminal intent.

The court was told that around 12.30 am the wife of the husband called her husband to say that she had seen a man jumping over their fence. The husband called a neighbour who successfully managed to apprehend the accused.

Police investigations revealed that the accused had jumped over the fence and was proceeding to meet with the maid who worked in the house as the two were having an intimate relationship.

The court of first instance has repealed an earlier ruling acquitting a nurse charged by the public prosecution with illegal performance of abortive operations on pregnant women for money, and sentenced her to a fine of KD500, while ordering the confiscation of her medical instruments and medications used in her illegal trade.

The court heard that an undercover police agent offered to have an abortion performed on her by the suspect in return for KD50 security money.

The prosecution had claimed that the suspect was arrested in the act.

The court of misdemeanour has acquitted two employees at a local money-exchange company accused of embezzling KD30,000, for lack of evidence.

The court heard that a client had given them the amount and requested that they remit the money in US dollars to an oil company in Egypt. Having done business with this company on a regular basis, he did not request a receipt of the transaction.

He waited till eight months

had elapsed and then claimed that the money was not received by the company in Egypt.

He failed to produce a receipt or any document to corroborate his claim and further waited for eight months prior to reporting the incident.

An outbreak of fire yesterday destroyed two large fish-culture tanks at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research fish farm in Salmiya.

Li Col Hameed Bahman, commander of the Salmiya local fire brigade, told a local daily that the losses sustained in the accident were only material damage estimated at 70 per cent. Fish of the Subutai and Balti species had already been removed.

He pointed out that the fire was caused by the overheating of the fuse panel due to an earlier fire outbreak which took place on Wednesday, but left unreported. The presence of nylon nets and fibreglass around the fish culture tanks helped the fire spread in the barracks.

Fire Brigade security supervisor Abdul Rahman Al Bloushi said that it took a whole hour to extinguish the fire.

A SUSPECT who evaded arrest for two weeks, was finally apprehended through diligent police work of the CID personnel attached to the Sharq Police Station.

According to police sources, the suspect identified as Ayed was stopped by police and called upon to produce his driving licence and car book. However, the accused held the police at gun point and threatened to shoot them if they refused to hand over their pistols. The accused, it is alleged took their guns and made a successful escape.

However, CID officer, Mohammed Sulaiman attached to the Sharq Police Station through diligent foot-work successfully apprehended the suspect.

The accused has been referred to investigation authorities.

From the courts

Man gets 10 years RI for raping maid

BAHRAIN DIGEST

US envoy promotes trade competition

THE United States believes that it is no longer the single dominant world economic power it used to be. The world's largest economic nation acknowledges the growing economic strength of both its allies and former adversaries and is now committed to the policy of encouraging and actively participating in trade competition on the world market as the only way to preserve and promote American national security and commercial growth by the 21st century, according to US Deputy Secretary of State, Laurence Eagleburger.

Charles Hoessler, American ambassador in Bahrain, quoted the US deputy secretary of state in the course of a speech highlighting US International Trade Policy at a meeting of 'Republicans Abroad' country organisation in Bahrain.

The American State Department is playing an active role in furthering US business interests in both domestic and international markets. It will act to ensure that the multilateral regulation of the international trading systems works for American businessmen as well as international traders on a fair and reciprocal basis. In this context the present administration is placing highest priority on American international trade relations with other nations. The US government is planning to adopt the GATT trading system in a bid to increase access for services, an end to enormous government-created distortions in agriculture markets, adequate protection of intellectual properties and an effective dispute settlement process, commented Ambassador Hoessler, a prominent businessman in his own right owning three US-based companies.

According to Hoessler, the American government adheres to a standard of open and non-discriminatory commerce on the basis of free-market economics. The Bush administration has started to ease off trade controls to facilitate sales of US products abroad. In this context the government has enforced the 1988 Trade Act amendments to the 'Foreign Corrupt Practices Act'. The move is expected to ease the compliance burden for US firms.

The American ambassador emphasised on the US government's

keenness to facilitate the promotion and sales of American goods abroad. US embassy personnel have been given specific instructions to provide detailed information to foreign traders about American exports and trade.

In Bahrain, America continues to be the island's largest trading partner over the past few years.

Marketing strategy imperative: Qassim

THE GCC consumer markets, despite registering rapid growth in view of unprecedented economic and industrial development, need to have well-planned strategies to promote and develop consumer and industrial markets in the region during the nineties, according to Bahrain's Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, Habib Qassim.

Inaugurating 'Gulf Marketing Conference' this week at the Sheraton, Bahrain's minister of commerce and agriculture stressed that in order to cope with the evolving marketing trends in other parts of the world to fulfill consumer satisfaction, it is imperative that a well-defined marketing strategy in conformity to the region's consumer needs must be adopted and implemented soon.

Constraints
The minister said that the evolution of a strong manufacturing sector has been constrained by several factors primarily because of the existent practice of free trade policy. Goods produced by Gulf manufacturers and industrialists face competition even in the home markets because of this trend, he added.

According to Qassim the formation of Gulf Marketing Association (GMA), organisers of the three-day event, comes at a propitious time when the Gulf is poised for renewed economic and industrial growth. He called for greater co-operation between the governments and the firms of the private sector in the region to achieve the objective at hand.

Abdul Monem Shirow, general manager of the Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Co. (Balexo) and president of GMA emphasised the need and importance for personnel in commercial and industrial fields to learn and understand modern concepts of marketing management.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LET us be happy and live within our means, even if we have to borrow the money to do it with—Artemus Ward, US revolutionary commander (1727-1800).

Israeli importance to the US 'over'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (CSM): Like the rest of the world, Israel has watched with absorbed interest the dizzying changes taking place in Central Europe.

But mixed with enthusiasm over the dissolution of Europe's communist regimes is a growing, still largely unarticulated fear that the apparent end of the cold war could pose an eventual threat to the security of the Jewish state.

At root is the concern expressed by some Israeli officials and commentators that Israel's value to the United States as a strategic asset in containing communist expansion in the Middle East may soon diminish.

It comes at a time when Israel's tough response to the two-year Palestinian uprising has weakened the other leg of the US-Israeli relationship — the sense of shared moral values.

Several private and government analysts agree that the combined effect of the easing of superpower tensions, low oil prices, and the end of the Gulf war could diminish Israel's strategic value while "marginalizing" the importance of the Mideast in general.

One specific concern is that any diminution of the US-Israeli strategic alliance could weaken its deterrent value in the eyes of potentially hostile Arab states.

Another is that if the thaw leads to a cutback in the US military presence in Europe, the ability of the US to guarantee Israeli security — as in 1973 when a massive airlift of US supplies saved Israel during an Arab-Israeli war — will be foreshortened.

"If the US retreats back to its own shores, its ability to save Israel against an Arab war coalition will be diminished," says Dore Gold, an expert on US policy at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

But these analysts add that several factors will delay and minimize the security implications of changing superpower relations:

— The potential effects on US-Israeli strategic relationship will be offset by parallel developments between the Soviet Union and Syria — the Soviets' principal Middle East ally and Israel's principal Middle East adversary.

Soviet leaders have reportedly warned Syria to abandon its goal of strategic parity with Israel, which it would need to launch an offensive to recapture the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967.

In the future, Soviet arms sales to Syria will be governed by the principle of "reasonable defensive sufficiency" and will take into account "the limits of our capabilities," Alexander Zorov, the Soviet ambassador to Syria, told the Washington Post recently.

The potential easing of the Syrian threat is matched by changing attitudes of other Arab states. They now turn to moderate Egypt for regional leadership and, after 40 years, have come largely to accept, if grudgingly, the existence of the Jewish state.

— Analysts note that the US is unlikely to abandon old commitments while the international order is in a state of flux, while Soviet military power remains formidable, and while a premium on political stability in the region remains high because of Western dependence on Middle East oil.

They add that as military ties with old European allies are relaxed, Israel could actually become strategically more important to the US, because of its port facilities used by the Mediterranean-based Sixth Fleet and even as a future site for a US air base.

"With arms control in Central Europe, the flanks become more important to the defense of Europe and to US power projection in Europe and the Middle East," says Dr Gold.

The successful space rocket launch by Iraq also shifts the military picture in the region. The launch indicates Iraq has intercontinental ballistic missile capability.

— Close ties between the US and Israel have not only been a function of strategic considerations but of strong support for Israel in Congress and a determination to protect Israel against larger Arab armies.

"It's a military/economic relationship that wasn't closely coupled to the strategic situation on the ground," says Gerald Steinberg, a specialist on US-Israeli strategic relations at Israel's Bar-Ilan University. "Thus it doesn't necessarily follow that the relationship will be cut back severely just because the US-Soviet relationship is changing."

Although close military ties between Israel and the US have existed for years, it was during the Reagan administration that the US elevated Israel to the position of strategic asset.

Co-operation between the two countries has flourished in the areas of intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, arms sales, and the joint development of weapons systems. At the same time, Israel is a base for prepositioned US supplies that would be needed to fight a conventional war if radical Arab regimes threaten Israel and moderate Arab countries.

Israel now receives one-fifth of total US development, economic, and military aid, amounting to \$3 billion annually.

If a stable world order emerges that poses no major threat to US interests in the Middle East, the US may eventually de-emphasize its relationship, analysts say.

Such a readjustment is unlikely to jeopardize Israel's security. But the resulting cutback in US military spending would hurt Israel's economy. The US annually purchases \$1 billion in defense-related items from Israel. Combined with the easing of regional tensions, which threatens to make large inroads on Israeli arms sales, the decline in superpower tensions could be a serious blow to a country that has 20 per cent of its industrial work force in military-related production.

Anticipating these developments, some Israeli defense firms are already seeking ways to diversify to non-weapons production.

"Is Israel no longer going to be the tripwire against approaching communists? The answer is yes," says Harry Wall, Israel director of the Anti-Defamation League, referring to the implications of global changes on US-Israeli relations. "But Israel is a stable democracy in a high unstable party of the world. That has to count for something."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1606 — England's Parliament imposes severe penalties against Roman Catholics.
- 1732 — Russia gives up claims to certain Persian territories by treaty of Riascha.
- 1793 — France's King Louis XVI is beheaded.
- 1919 — Sinn Féin congress in Dublin, Ireland, adopts declaration of independence.
- 1924 — First Nationalist Chinese Congress at Canton admits communists and welcomes Russian advisers.
- 1942 — German forces launch new offensive in western African desert in World War II.
- 1949 — Chiang Kai-Shek resigns China presidency following Nationalist Party reversals.
- 1954 — First atomic submarine, USS Nautilus, is launched in United States.
- 1968 — Britain draws up plans to withdraw its troops from Far East and Gulf.
- 1970 — France's sale of Mirage jet planes to Libya is announced; Iraq foils attempt to overthrow its government and promptly executes 12 men.
- 1974 — United States rejects South Vietnam's request for naval support in fighting with Chinese for Paracel Islands.
- 1986 — Auto packed with explosives blows up near office of President Amin Gemayal's Phalange Party in east Beirut Lebanon, killing 22 people and wounding 102.
- 1988 — Dozens of Palestinian men emerge from Beirut's war-ravaged refugee camps for the first time in nearly three years, a day after Shiite Muslim militiamen lift a 32-month-old siege.

Divide-and-rule tactics prime cause

Soviet Transcaucasia conflict comes to head

MOSCOW, (UPI): For centuries the Transcaucasian region of the Soviet Union has been a bubbling cauldron of hate, nationalism and deadly religious feuding that has been fuelled by the divide-and-rule strategy used by both Czarist and communist Russia.

The strategy now appears to have backfired into a virtual civil war between the Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Religions lies at the root of the long antagonism between Armenia, with a Christian heritage, and Azerbaijan, whose inhabitants are mostly Shiite Muslims. Beside their religious rivalry, the distrust between Armenians and Azerbaijanis is rooted in the ethnic conflict between the Azerbaijanis' "cousins," the Turks, and the Armenians, their bitter enemy.

Though not as radical as their fundamentalist Shiite religious neighbours in Iran, Soviet Azerbaijanis, while accepting communist rule, have never abandoned their strong attachment to Islam and their hatred of Armenians.

Few concrete steps were ever taken by Moscow to defuse the rivalry between Christian and Muslim in the region long known to be a tinderbox. At times, Moscow would use the rivalry to distract nationalist elements in both republics from focusing their attention on discontent with Soviet rule.

The Armenians accuse the Turks of a centuries-old genocide campaign that culminated in the forced resettlement and massacre of more than 1 million Armenians in 1915.

The two states, which now form two of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, have been at war before over the same territory now in dispute — the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Shortly after the collapse of the month-old Transcaucasian federal republic composed of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in 1918, Armenia and Azerbaijan fought skirmishes over the Karabakh region. Despite some military success by Armenia, a treaty with Moscow in the early 1920s gave Azerbaijan control of the mostly Armenian-populated region.

Armenian nationalists always have made a main priority the return to Armenian rule of Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population of 170,000 is 80 per cent Armenian.

After joining the Soviet Union in 1920, Armenia was later to lose the enclave of Nakhichevan, now a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalism, to Azerbaijan as well.

The Shiites of Nakhichevan are now demanding free access to neighbouring Iran. The region was split between Iran and Czarist Russia in 1928, with the vast majority of the Azerbaijani nation living on the Iranian side of the border.

Armenia, with a population of 3.1 million, is one of the smallest of the Soviet republics. Sandwiched between Turkey and Azerbaijan, with a population of 6.4 million, it feels itself vulnerable and, at times, in need of Moscow's protection from its centuries-old enemies.

Despite more than seven decades of communist rule, a strong sense of nationalism is still present in both Armenians and Azerbaijanis. This nationalism coupled with the traditional religious rivalry and the arbitrary redrawing of national boundaries in the region by Moscow has created an atmosphere of conflict.

Under the hard-line governments that preceded Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his twin reforms of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (political and economic restructuring), the Moscow-dominated local governments in the republics managed to keep a lid on the worst of the ethnic violence.

News blackouts on such disturbances also gave the impression that the centuries of ethnic rivalry had been suppressed.

Using a policy often practiced by the British in Africa, Moscow did little to attack the root cause of the rivalry, preferring instead to keep the two republics in a state of agitation by failing to deal with border disputes.

By keeping the two peoples focused on each other, the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis had little time or energy to devote to any anti-Soviet crusade.

But under a more tolerant government in Moscow, expressions of discontent and nationalism repressed for decades were finally permitted a public airing.

Armenian nationalists, encouraged by demonstrations in the Soviet Union's three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, began publicly complaining of discrimination against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh in late 1987.

Strikes and clashes erupted in Stepanakert, the region's capital, between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. More protests in the Armenian capital of Yerevan triggered an anti-Armenian pogrom in the Azerbaijani industrial city of Sumgait in February 1988 that left more than 30 dead and hundreds injured.

The conflict has grown exponentially since then. More than 200 people have been killed and hun-



An Armenian activist during a rally in Pushkin Square in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

Conflict could be Gorby's undoing

MOSCOW, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev appears to face no immediate danger from the flaring conflict in Transcaucasia but if fighting were drawn out, with heavy army casualties, the tide could turn against him.

Gorbachev is still in a position of strength. All that he has done so far clearly has the support of the entire leadership," said Igor Sedikh, a political commentator for the Novosti press agency.

"The conflict is still localised and has not, so far, taken on an aspect that could alter Gorbachev's long-term plans, either political or economic," said Boris Tumanov of the official Tass news agency.

Their assessment, delivered as Azerbaijan appeared to be moving towards open insurrection against Soviet authority, was echoed by Western diplomats closely monitoring the Kremlin political scene.

"What is going on in the communist Party is much more important as far as Gorbachev's own position and the survival of his vision of perestroika are concerned," said one, referring to clear signs of mounting resistance to reform.

"I would not exaggerate the fall-out of the conflict for Gorbachev, nor at this stage anyway," said another diplomat with many years of experience in analysing the Soviet domestic scene. "The struggle for power in the party is the real issue."

More than 50 have been killed in the latest anti-Armenian pogrom in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku in the past week.

After the devastating December 1988 earthquake in Armenia, Azerbaijan launched an unofficial rail and road blockade of goods travelling through its

republic to Armenia. Anger grew as reconstruction work was delayed in Armenia.

Passions have been fuelled by the nationalist press of both sides, now free from strict central control, in the detailing of atrocities — some true, some not — to inflame passions.

On Friday, the Kremlin moved to head off such protests by announcing that reservists would be out of the south within five days and would be replaced by current servicemen.

The Kremlin chief and most of his colleagues in the party's ruling Politburo staged what has become an unusual show of at least public unity on Thursday and Friday when they attended a Kremlin conference on the future of perestroika.

In a speech opening the meeting, organised by mainly conservative party officials according to Soviet sources, Gorbachev delivered a resounding defence of his programme — in an ad-lib remarks describing it as "radical."

Visiting Lithuania, whose own cautious if determined moves towards independence one Soviet

commentator described as "a model of civility" compared with the events in the south, the Kremlin chief seemed last week to signal a new radical turn.

"What he appeared to be saying there was that all the fundamentalists wanted for themselves, he wanted for the Soviet Union as a whole," one diplomatic analyst said. "Only his plea was: let's stay united and do it together."

But to move in this direction, both foreign and Soviet analysts agree, he has to ensure a quick and radical turn in the direction of the party itself, which is increasingly divided between a reformist rank-and-file and a conservative apparatus.

Some Soviet commentators predict a confrontation when the party's policy-making central committee meets in an extended session next weekend, partly to discuss new statutes to be put before a party congress scheduled for October.

There has been mounting pressure from the grass roots of the party — as well as from prominent radicals who fear what they see as a mounting tide in the favour of the conservatives — for the congress to be brought forward.

But Gorbachev himself rejected that idea in a speech on Friday. The congress had already been shifted from the spring of 1991, he declared. Time was needed to change "the atmosphere and the membership situation" in the party, he said.

Letters to the editor

Visit visas

Sir: Kuwait is a welfare state where citizens as well as expatriates, irrespective of their nationality and religion get free education, medical services and many other facilities which are well known to everyone. Besides these facilities, one feels quite safe and far from disturbances as Kuwaiti civil administration is commendable. The crime rate is too low to compare with any other modern country. This is the reason that when an expatriate comes to Kuwait for a short period, wishes to stay here as long as possible.

With due respect of the law I wish to give my suggestions on the following:

1 — The residence laws have already been implemented and it is very difficult for a low-paid employee to get family visa.

2 — Visit visa for a month is granted with the least trouble and I know many families who come to Kuwait but have to go to Basra after getting a new visit visa for one month. Those young husbands who are anxious to bring their families have to follow the same procedure for four or five times. They have to get Iraq's visa and have to bear a lot of expenses.

3 — Again with due respect of the prevailing law, I suggest that the Immigration Department of the Ministry of the Interior should review the laws according to Islamic point of view and should relax conditions in certain cases.

4 — Also the visit visa's validity of stay, if extended say for six months, three months or even two months. The ministry can levy an amount on visit visas. Say for six months visit visa KD 250/- and KD 150/- for a visit visa of three months.

5 — On satisfactory completion of formalities by a deserving applicant, ministry can grant residence and can levy a yearly visa fee, say KD 200/- per year and this should be at least for three years (i.e. KD 600/- for three years). I am sure this way it will serve a nice purpose of augmenting government funds and at the same time the illegal business of visa will be stopped. I may add that after 3 years residence, normal fee of KD 10/- per year can be charged.

I hope that the authorities will kindly give sympathetic consideration to the above suggestions which have been indicated with all sincerity and in true Islamic spirit.

M. Kamal Azhar,
President,
Pakistan Arts Circle

Save Muslims

Sir: We have seen in the Indian sub-continent that whenever there was any political unrest the leaders used to create some sort of communal violence and divert the political unrest.

In Soviet Russia political unrest started when one of the Soviet republics declared independence. The central government could not take any step to avoid bad name and international pressure.

In Azerbaijan they have also started agitation for more democracy and also the neighbouring countries. There are "bitter feelings" regarding the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Soviet govt. taking this advantage, incited riots and has now sent troops to curb the Azerbaijanis. To frighten the other republics, the Soviet troops will slaughter hundreds of Azeri Muslims in the name of law and order.

We appeal to all Muslim states to take appropriate steps to save these Muslims from the hands of Soviet troops.

In the past, we have seen Muslims killed in Soviet Russia for this or that reason and the population of the Muslim community is reduced instead of increasing like in all other countries. We also appeal to Gorbachev not to kill Muslims as his predecessors.

Ahmed,
Safat

Cheat king-maker

Sir: I have seen in this column criticisms against UMO for its malfunction in our community.

I would like to highlight the cheating of a congress leader who works as the king-maker of UMO and a director of an Indian school. Through his travel agency in India he recruited us for the oil sectors and showed us the demand letter attested by the Indian Embassy for KD 45/- as salary. When I reached here I got only KD 28/- I approached him and explained my situation and he threatened me with immediate deportation.

He received money for the visa as he usually does for his school. Now I request the UMO officials to take action against such anti-social elements who cheat the poor labourers and teachers of our community.

Poor fellow,
(Name and address supplied).

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"We're hopeful that they (the Fed) will take a look at this morning's indicators and understand that these numbers are low and indicate that inflation has remained very steady over the last seven or eight years and that lower interest rates are justified." — A White House spokesman expressing satisfaction at the US interest rate.

"The Panamanian economy has suffered incalculable damage due to the long years of military control, the excesses of the regime during the crisis of the past 30 months, the US economic sanctions, and the costly but necessary US military action to remove the dictator." — Panamanian President Endara appealing for US aid.

"People in both the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) must have the right and the possibility to decide freely over the question as to whether or not they want to live in one (single) German state." — Kohl in a speech at the French Institute of International Relations to mark the launch of his book "Europe Is Our Destiny."

"There will be no more bombing attacks in any part of the nation and we have ordered the suspension of all types of executions of political leaders, judicial and other government officials, journalists, police and military personnel." — The Colombian extraditables in a statement.

السلامة العامة

MIDEAST

PLO turns West after losing East allies

NICOSIA, Jan 20, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has written off the communist bloc as a strategic ally and is turning to the West for help in its quest for statehood, PLO official said today.

"The deep changes in the Eastern bloc, which was our chief international ally for the past 25 years, will prevent it from playing any Middle East role for at least another five years," said aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"The PLO is now working to build new international bridges as an alternative for the absence of an active Eastern Europe," said the Gulf-based official, who declined to be named.

This altered view, shared by other Palestinian leaders, contrasts with widespread speculation last year that the Soviet Union under President Mikhail Gorbachev was poised for a diplomatic comeback in the Middle East.

The PLO has long argued that the best forum to resolve Arab-Israeli conflict would be an international conference chaired jointly by the Soviet Union and the United States. Israel and the United States oppose the idea.

With the reduction of East-West tensions, Western states had seemed less hostile to allowing Moscow a role in the region. But Gorbachev and other East

European leaders all seem likely now to have their hands full at home for the foreseeable future.

Several Eastern European countries have moved to restore ties with Israel, cut in protest against its occupation of Arab territories in 1967.

The new PLO view emerged in connection with a visit today by Arafat to Oman, where Sultan Qaboos Bin Said is current chairman of both the Arab League and the Gulf Co-operation Council.

The PLO official said Arafat was seeking Oman's help in urging Britain to play a more active role.

He said the PLO had made important

diplomatic gains in countries like France and Italy which upgraded the group's status after Arafat's 1988 declaration accepting Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

"But there is a gap in the European position represented in the British stance and in particular that of (Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher," he said.

"It is no secret that there is a special relationship between the Sultanate and Britain, and Oman is able to play through its new (leadership) status a basic role in amending the British position in line with the interests of both parties," Arafat's aide said.

Clash in Lebanon

Syrians fight with Aoun troops

BEIRUT, Jan 20, (Agencies): Syrian and Lebanese troops clashed today on the northern edge of Lebanon's Christian enclave during a demonstration by supporters of Christian General Michel Aoun.

The troops fought at Madfoun bridge, 25 miles (40 km) north of Beirut, on a 'day of solidarity with north Lebanon' called by Aoun to protest at Syria's military presence in the area.

Christian security sources said the clashes were triggered by Syrian troops firing to disperse a crowd of Aoun's followers handing out Lebanese flags and posters of the Christian general.

Muslim security sources said the Syrians had only shot in the air to stop the protesters marching on a Syrian checkpoint at the bridge and said Aoun's troops had started the firefight.

The Christian security sources said both sides used tanks and machine-guns. There were no reports of casualties.

A few hours later shooting resumed on the coastal road and the Madfoun bridge crossing between the north and the enclave, held by Aoun's 15,000 mostly Christian troops, was closed to traffic.

Most towns and villages in the north, including places where no Syrian troops are stationed, ignored Aoun's call for a one-day general strike against what he calls the Syrian occupation.

Schoolchildren in the northern port of Tripoli were sent home early because of fears of a fresh wave of explosions a week after a man was killed and five people wounded by bomb blasts.

The principal dismissed us and told us there is no school today because Aoun wants to kill us," said 10-year-old Nabil Adrah.

Unidentified gunmen in Christian East Beirut earlier seized a Lebanese journalist who tried to report on an organising a meeting to protect Aoun banning the media from identifying Elias Hrawi as President.

Wearing civilian clothes and armed with revolvers, the men took George Al Haj from his home in the Ashrafieh district for questioning. He was released unharmed a few hours later.

Haj is a member of the Journalists' Association, which held a march in Muslim West Beirut against Aoun's press restrictions.

Hundreds of journalists, academics and leftists waving banners converged on the information ministry and were addressed by Mohammed Basbaki, head of the Publishers' Association.

"We don't accept any substitute to freedom," Basbaki said.



Two Lebanese journalists take pictures of area where the Israeli warplanes raided near the Palestinian refugee camp of Mieh Mieh, as black smoke billows from the targeted area. (Reuters wirephoto)

The general has closed two newspapers and a newsletter in East Beirut for a week for referring to Hrawi, who was elected by Lebanese parliamentarians in November, as head of state.

One person was killed and four injured when leaking fuel triggered an explosion and fire at an East Beirut commercial centre today, security sources said.

Firemen were battling the blaze and trying to evacuate people from the building after the blast in the basement of the eight-storey centre in the Jazaw district.

The sources said workers welding the leaking fuel tank of a generator sparked off the explosion at the centre, which houses a bank and several companies.

Lebanese Finance Minister Ali Al

Khalil said yesterday he wanted pressure exerted on Israel to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon.

Referring to a Security Council meeting later this month to renew the mandate of the UN interim force in southern Lebanon (Unifil), he told a news conference: "We are not interested in having a routine renewal."

"We are requesting the permanent members of the Security Council, especially the United States which can influence most Israel, to actually exert the required pressure on Israel to withdraw its forces."

The toll in Israeli air raids on a Palestinian radio station and a pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militia base in south Lebanon rose to seven killed and 18 wounded, police said today.

Israel assailed for Hussein arrest

'Its a slap in the face of peace: wrong signal'

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan 20, (Agencies): Palestinians from across the political spectrum in the occupied territories assailed Israel today for arresting nationalist leader Faisal Al Hussein, calling it a slap in the face of peace.

"This shows the Israeli government and its policies are against peace and against any measure that would take the area from violence into reality and safety," said journalist and prominent pro-PLO nationalist Radwan Abu Ayyash.

Leaders from the occupied West Bank called a news conference in Arab East Jerusalem at which they described as baseless and fabricated allegations that Hussein helped finance activists in the 25-month-old Arab uprising.

Hussein, 49, universally regarded as the main leader of 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied areas, was arrested on Friday for questioning about contacts with the Israeli army. He was paid \$250 to buy past military uniforms.

He denied the allegations, saying he paid the money for plumbing work in his East Jerusalem home.

Police also presented secret evidence said to show Hussein had illegal contacts with "hostile organisation" and helped to organise the Palestinian revolt.

His arrest was criticised by Israeli peace activists and the United States, the Jewish state's closest ally. Washington regards Hussein as a key figure in any future Israeli-Palestinian talks.

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said on Friday that the move "sends precisely the wrong signal to the Palestinians at a time of intense efforts to establish a dialogue between them and the Israelis and move the process forward."

Several Western diplomats based in Jerusalem, including US Consul-General Philip Wilcox,



Support for Israel

Ron Brown, chairman of the US Democratic National Committee, said on Thursday his visit to Nablus, where his motorcade ran into a series of burning roadblocks, reinforced his support for Israel.

Brown also said he "vehemently opposed" Republican Senator Bob Dole's proposal to cut US aid to Israel and four other countries so as to free funds for helping democratic movements in Eastern Europe.

Pictures shows Brown standing on a hill overlooking the West Bank city of Nablus, as an Israeli army colonel briefs him.

He also condemned Hussein's arrest.

"If the Israelis intend to pave the way for the peace process, which requires a goodwill initiative, there is no justification for arresting Hussein," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Palestinian and Israeli activists said they would picket the jail in West Jerusalem where Hussein has been ordered held until Monday.

He described the arrest as a slap in the face of peace and a wrong signal to the Palestinians.

He also condemned Hussein's arrest.

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Mideast churches meet in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Jan 20, (Reuters): All major Middle East churches will come together in Cyprus next week for the first time since the fifth century to discuss their role as a minority in the region.

Eastern Rite Catholic churches will take part in the assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), after joining last March with the Vatican's approval.

It is an historic meeting," said the Reverend Douglas Ducharme, the council's press officer. He said a Vatican representative would attend the six-day assembly opening in Nicosia on Monday and bring a message from the Pope.

The Eastern Rite churches taking part are the Maronite, Armenian Catholic, Coptic Catholic, Syrian Catholic, Chaldean Catholic, Greek Catholic and the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

They were founded after the great schism between catholicism and orthodoxy in 1054, Ducharme said. He said the last meeting of all main regional churches was the Council of Chalcedon in the fifth century.

The assembly, normally held every four years, will bring together 200 representatives from the region as well as from the World Council of Churches and other church organisations worldwide.

On its agenda will be issues like Christian migration from the Middle East, religious extremism and church unity to help Christians encounter the challenges they face as a minority of some ten to 15 per cent in the Middle East, Ducharme said.

"This is not an ecumenical council that will formulate the doctrine of the Christian church," he said. It aimed to provide policy directions and guidelines for MECC members.

He said the assembly would examine a working paper on the issue of Christians emigrating from a region where they faced a tremendous sense of insecurity and fear about the future.

He described the migration as substantial, though he said there were no accurate figures. Once there was a clear picture a decision had to be taken.

At present, said Ducharme, some churches recognised the stress their members were under and helped them leave. Others like the Syrian orthodox church said they should stay in the lands where Christianity began.

Ducharme said churches could undertake housing programmes, social help and pastoral care if a decision were taken to reduce immigration.

\$420m campaign to help Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (UPI): American Jews soon will be asked to contribute \$420 million to help thousands of Soviet Jews find new homes in Israel, the United Jewish Appeal announced yesterday.

The campaign, dubbed "operation exodus," will be part of a \$600 million fund-raising effort that includes other countries and participation by the Israeli government.

The \$420 million American goal is based on projections that at least 165,000 Jews will arrive in Israel within the next two years, said UJA national chairman Morton Korneich at a news conference where he was joined by officials from the United Israel Appeal and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

with extremists is that of religious intellectuals "and we adhere to our security role and leave the issues of dialogue and advice to the specialists, and we hope that all efforts would focus on facing extremism."

Three large drug-smuggling rings were smashed in raids in several Iranian provinces and 31 traffickers arrested, Tehran Radio reported today.

The broadcast, aired an interview with Hussein Mirlohi, deputy head of the revolutionary committees, Iran's main law enforcement agencies.

He said the smuggling rings had recently been busted in the provinces of Mazandaran, Bakhtaran

destroying the youths of this country. I don't think that Israel in specific is behind these gangs since heroin is produced by many countries such as Latin America and Southeast Asian countries.

Moussa added that his second priority is confronting those who are trying to sabotage the economy of Egypt, including those who deal with currencies.

On the religious extremist, Moussa said that the responsibility for this is not that of the Interior Ministry alone, and stressed that his ministry would "strike hard" on the outlawed wherever their positions might be.

He also said that the responsibility of conducting dialogue

tribal clashes in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Jan 20, (Reuters): Sixty Arab tribesmen have been arrested after clashes with non-Muslim southerners in central Sudan in which 222 people were killed and 37 injured, the official Sudanese news agency Suna reported today.

Suna, quoting government sources, said weapons, trucks and tractors believed to have been used in the clashes in the town of El-Gebelein on December 28 had also been seized.

Waite is still alive, believes Runcie

LONDON, Jan 20, (Reuters): Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie said today he believed Terry Waite was still alive three years after the British church envoy disappeared in Lebanon during a mission to free Western hostages.

"I hope we shall not need to keep this anniversary again. We long to be able to celebrate Terry's day of release," the archbishop, spiritual leader of the Anglican church, said in a statement.

"Recently we got information that Waite was still alive and held in Lebanon," a senior pro-Syrian official told Reuters.

Waite, now 50, vanished in Beirut on the night of January 20, 1987, after dismissing guards so that he could negotiate with kidnappers alone. No one has claimed responsibility for his abduction.

Runcie said in a television interview on Friday: "We have had no direct news because we have had no demands and we have no news about his exact circumstances."

Three other Britons are being held hostage in Lebanon: Brian Keenan, who also has Irish nationality, John McCarthy and Jack Mann.

The archbishop, whose office issued the statement shortly before he was due to arrive home after a visit to Ethiopia, called for prayers for the hostages' families.

He said: "Three years is a long time in anyone's life—and some of the hostages have been held for even longer than that."

Runcie added: "The Lebanese people have suffered more than 15 years of brutal civil war, aggravated by external intervention. We must pray earnestly for just peace in Lebanon, for that would see an end to the hostage-taking."

Badran cancels political checks

Govt can rehire workers fired for political reasons

AMMAN, Jan 20, (AP): Prime Minister Mudar Badran today cancelled mandatory vetting of civil servants by the intelligence department and told government departments they can rehire workers fired for political reasons.

Jordan's official Petra news agency reported the measures, which continue a series of liberalising measures and further trim the once-vast role of the general intelligence department, known as the Mukhabarat.

It was not immediately clear how many people could be affected by the circular permitting re-employment of banned workers. The directive did not order agencies to rehire them.

Prior to Badran's order, all government agencies

Fighting narcotics tops priority

Moussa sees drugs as threat to security

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Agencies): New Egyptian Interior Minister Major-General Mohammed Abdul Halim Moussa has said that his priority would be fighting narcotics which he described as the most serious threat to Egypt's security.

In two separate interviews with Kuwaiti newspapers Moussa said he is with the law which provides for death sentences for narcotic traffickers.

Answering a question on whether Israel is being behind the gangs of traffickers who smuggle drugs to Egypt, the minister said "we are not targeted by Israel alone but by many other countries."

He added that "they aim at

destroying the youths of this country. I don't think that Israel in specific is behind these gangs since heroin is produced by many countries such as Latin America and Southeast Asian countries.

Moussa added that his second priority is confronting those who are trying to sabotage the economy of Egypt, including those who deal with currencies.

On the religious extremist, Moussa said that the responsibility for this is not that of the Interior Ministry alone, and stressed that his ministry would "strike hard" on the outlawed wherever their positions might be.

He also said that the responsibility of conducting dialogue

tribal clashes in Sudan

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Regional peace conference

Foreign fleets must pull out from Red Sea, Gulf: Attas

ADEN, Jan 20, (Reuters): South Yemeni President Abu Bakr Al Attas opened a regional peace conference today with a call for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Red Sea, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

He told delegates that the area should be demilitarised in line with the new spirit of international co-operation.

"This conference is held in new international circumstances distinguished from others by the emerging calls for peace and disarmament," Al Attas said in a keynote speech.

The three-day meeting, called by the Organisation for Afro-Asian Solidarity, is being attended by 45 countries including Arab states, Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and China. Western countries, Iran and Israel were not invited.

Fleets from Britain, France, the US and the Soviet Union have remained in the region despite a 1988 ceasefire that ended fighting in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Murad Ghalib, President of Afro-Asian group, told delegates that "cases of war have changed into no-war, no-peace situations and

we should work for permanent peace.

"Traditional dangers are still there, represented in the continued presence of foreign fleets and military bases," said Ghalib, a former Egyptian foreign minister.

"This calls for the co-operation of all states overlooking these seas," he said, adding that this should also extend to environment issues.

North and South Yemen, which plan to merge in a single state, were represented at the conference by a single delegation led by North Yemeni Deputy Premier Hassan Mekki, officials said.

Arafat receives envoys to Palestine

TUNIS, Jan 20, (AP): Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat personally received letters of accreditation yesterday for ambassadors from India and Yugoslavia, PLO officials said.

It marked the first time Arafat has received such letters in Tunis since the PLO proclaimed the state of Palestine in December 1988 in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Many East European and developing countries have assigned ambassadors to the state with their credentials normally handled by Farouk Kaddoumi, chief of the PLO's political department.

Arafat has usually been outside the Tunisian capital, where the PLO maintains its headquarters, when the credentials are presented, Palestinian sources said.

The diplomats, Herkez Arifadzi of Yugoslavia and Sood Prithvi Raj of India, are their respective countries' ambassadors to Tunisia.

The United States, Israel and most Western countries do not recognise the state of Palestine.

Sudan denies rebels downed warplanes

KHARTOUM, Jan 20, (AP): The military command today denied a morale-boosting propaganda claim by southern rebels that they shot down two government warplanes this month.

A command statement termed as "baseless" the rebel report broadcast yesterday. It said the air force has lost no planes recently and that the rebel claim was intended "to lift the morale of their defeated army."

The Ethiopian-based radio of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army said yesterday that its forces shot down two Soviet-built TU-22 bombers flying high-altitude raids against rebel positions in the southern part of Equatoria region. The broadcast did not mention the fate of the crews.

Monitored in Nairobi, Kenya, the broadcast said rebel gunners brought down one bomber 10 days ago near Kajo-Kaji.

EVENTS



Syrians host reception for minister

The Syrian community held reception in honour of the outgoing minister of the Syrian embassy in Kuwait, Baderuddin Lutfi, on the occasion of the end of his term in Kuwait.

The reception was attended by the Charge d'Affaires at the embassy Mohammed Ali Obaid and a number of senior officials.

The chairman of the community, Adeb Al Rammal, praised the efforts of the diplomat towards the Syrian nationals in Kuwait. An appreciation certificate and gift were presented to the minister. The honoured guest thanked the hosts and he expressed satisfaction over the period spent in Kuwait.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

THE MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Ahlam Al Toyour: Arabic serial starring Ahmad Mari, Sami Al Adel, Mohammed Al Dafrawi, and Sawan Bader
11.45 That's Incredible: foreign variety programme
12.30 News summary
12.35 Sabah Al Kher finale
12.40 Holy Quran and closedown

THE EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Breen: cartoon serial
5.15 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Farees Al A sheq: historical serial (part 4)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: local programme, prepared and presented by Yaqoub al Yousifi
7.45 Diwanayat Shura Al Nabat: local programme
8.30 Good Evening and Local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ghadan Tushregho Al Shams: Arabic serial (final part)
10.45 Al Daleel: Late night Arabic feature (final part), starring Sameeha Ayoub, Jameel Rateb, and Majdi Wahba
12.00 News summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

- 6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Mountain of Fear". Pat O'Gorman and Nick test themselves against the perils of Crown Mountain.... Pat tries to prove his manliness while Nick tries to prove he can repeat the conquests of his youth.

- 7.00 Earth. "The Coming of the Green". A continuation of last week's programme on pollution. It is considered a world problem and threatens environment as a whole....

- 8.00 News in English
8.30 Wildside. "The Crimes of the Century". A group of mercenaries, led by brigadier "Derek" ravages the country side and spread terror everywhere. Sutton and his team the Chamber of Commerce have to stop them....

- 9.30 Coach. "Kelly & Professor". Hyden feels uneasy when his daughter Kelly tells him that she has a date with her professor pretending that she has become of full age....

- 10.00 Q.E.D. How to be a Professional Mum or Dad. A programme to enhance baby's intelligence from the first month... a number of mothers participate in this programme....

- 10.30 Bestseller. "Around the World in 80 Days". Mr Fog bets his friends that he can travel around the world in 80 days and starts his journey from London to Dover then across France to Suez Canal....

- 12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



French ambassador visits Kuwait University

The Assistant Rector for Community Service and Information Affairs at Kuwait University, Dr Rasha Al Sabah, shown above receiving at her office yesterday Jean Bellivier, French Ambassador to Kuwait who introduced to her Jean Pierre Galtier, the new cultural attaché.



Environmental research calls for meeting

Dr Badriya Al Awadi, Deputy Executive Secretary General and the Technical and Administrative Coordinator of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment shown speaking at the eighth meeting of the Organisations' Technical Team, in which she called for setting up the necessary programmes and researches in the environmental field. The meeting aimed at drawing up of future recommendations on research programmes and monitoring the marine environment, the official said.



MBH annual staff party

The Messilah Beach Hotel annual staff party was held recently in the Habiba Ballroom. The General Manager, Tony Barlow, started the evening with a speech thanking the staff for their efforts in keeping up the high standards that the guests are used to receiving, encouraging them for more of the same for 1990.

The guest of honour for the party was Mohamed Najla, Vice President Operations for Kuwait Hotels Company, who wished everybody a prosperous new year.

The party included a dinner, games, entertainment and raffles. The grand prize, a return ticket to the country of origin, was won by Abdul Aziz Mohammad Nofar from the Housekeeping Department.

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Iraqi ceramics

AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian

Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

SOCIAL

Bharati Kalai Mandram

The Bharati Kalai Mandram will hold a reception for the Indian cyclist Jayaraman Ganeshan at the Indian Embassy Hall on Monday, Jan 22, at 6 pm. All are welcome.

Hotel Ramada Al Salam

A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting performances by Indian classical dancers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to complete a memorable event.

Flag hoisting

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India on Jan 26, 1990, there will be flag hoisting ceremony at 0900 hrs on that day, in the Indian Embassy premises at No. 34, Istiqlal Street.

Maharashtra Mandal

MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait celebrates their second "Makar Sankranti Ustav" on Sunday Jan 21, 1990 at the Indian Embassy Auditorium from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. All members are requested to attend.

Bar-B-Q

IAC is organising its first Bar-B-Q night with the Octave group. Programmes start at 7 pm includes music, dance, games, and vegetarian and non-vegetarian bar-b-q. Entries are restricted by passes only. For details contact Sharma at 2644863, Sunny at 4343329, Jacob 4319549, George 4735972.

British Council

Story Telling Session: Thursday, Jan 25 at 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a story teller. Children of all nationalities, ages 3-7 are invited. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Lecture: "Postgraduate Study in Britain" on Monday, Jan 22 at 6:00 pm. Come and find out about studying for your Masters or Ph.D. in the UK. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Bookworm Contest: The British Council is launching a bookworm contest open to children aged 7-15 years. Read as many books as you can. Have fun reading and win prizes. Register now at the British Council Library. Closing date for registration: Jan 27, 1990.

Like a Hurricane!!

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non-members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3:30 to 5:30. Beginners-improvers-adults mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1:00 and 1-2:00, Sat 5-6:00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5:30-6:30. Martial arts w/black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6, Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coaching available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women; gym facilities for men and women; tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext. 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Danes. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten - 2402698 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

Daniella Dart

The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht - 3727688 ext 246; or Bjarne Rasmussen - 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casmiro.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI COFFEE SHOP: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner at the end of the day. Choose from our lavish international buffet (lunch-KD5.500 and dinner KD5.750) and then sit back & enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet (KD2.500) you can always work off those excess calories at the Holiday Inn fitness centre.

AL DANA RESTAURANT: Spend your Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic oriental and international food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy ... You deserve it. (KD8.000).

AL ANDALUS SUPPER CLUB: Friday family lunch - A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous oriental and international buffet complimented by the sounds of our resident band, makes this a day to look forward. See you all ... Adults KD5.000 and children KD2.500.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Omer Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kaber Street

Hawalli and Al Nagra
Al Kindy Pharmacy
Al Jabriya

Al Sabhiya and Al Rumeithiya
Phoenix Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street

Al Fahheel and Al Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coast Road

Khaitan
Ghazwa Pharmacy
Main Street

Al Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opposite to Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Arabic film

Sabhiyah

Hall booked

Al Hamra

Arabic film

Drive-in

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Nadine

Fahheel

Asp Ke Deewane

Al Jahra

Main Azaad Hoon

Granada

Janam Janam

Solihikhat

Skate town USA

Jeeb

Adikurpu

Ahmadi Drive-in

The Hiddenburg

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.20 am

Zohr 11.59

Asr 2.57 pm

Maghreb 5.16

Isha 6.57

Hard work pays off

IF SHE were in Manila, she would definitely be a favourite copy of society and cultural pages, as she is now becoming one in Kuwait.

We met Florence de los Santos in Kuwait when the "Hatid Saya '89" presented three shows in a row at the ballroom of the Kuwait Regency Palace hotel last November, and she was one of the most active supporters of the musical outreach programme of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Madame Florence, as she is fondly called by her admirers, is a star material herself, but she said that her success in the business ventures she has established in Kuwait were more definitely due to her businessmen acumen, hard work and patience.

In Kuwait, Florence is considered as the patroness of Filipino arts and entertainment, as she is always supportive of any cultural projects being undertaken by the Filipino community.

At present, she is the director of finance of the Filipino Cultural Club (FCC) in Kuwait, the club which has shown several entertainment and cultural fares for the Kuwaiti Filipino communities.

For her active participation in the promotions of Filipino culture and entertainment in Kuwait, Florence was awarded the "Makabayan Award" by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait.



Florence

which cited her also for "her active involvement, selfless service, and valuable contributions to the welfare and well-being of the Filipino community in the State of Kuwait."

The then Charge d'Affairs Fortunato D. Oblena (now Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates) presented to Florence the "Makabayan Award."

Florence is also the recipient of several plaques of appreciation in recognition of her varied initiatives and supports to other Filipino community projects in Kuwait.

Recently, the Filipino Cultural Club of which she is the finance director, presented the "Fiesta Extravaganza '89" at the plush Hotel Meridien as the

club's year-end affair, and as a means of expressing gratitude to the supporters and well-wishers of the club.

The FCC is composed of Salvador Patungan, executive director; Lito Matig-a, deputy executive director; Louella Mendoza, executive treasurer; Maria Socorro Falacios, executive secretary; Ma Suzette E. Vasillo, director on media affairs and public relations; Joey Laurente, founding member; Jun Sta. Maria, consultant, and Dick Orense, adviser.

As a businesswoman, Florence owns the Mabuhay Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel, the Philippine Gift Shoppe, Samar Grocery in Souk Al Kabir and Mabuhay Beauty Saloon men/women.

One area of her life which she is so quiet and humble about it, is the assistance she has been giving to Filipinos who are stranded in Kuwait, like the "runaway" domestic helpers, or those who lost their jobs, or victims of Filipino illegal recruiters.

Florence arrived in Kuwait seven years ago, and she started as a salesgirl.

She married her Egyptian husband Fathi, a year later, and who encouraged her when she wanted to go into business.

Florence said that if she could make money for her employer, then she could also make money for herself as a businesswoman.

They have two kids, a six-year old daughter and a son.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stock market sets Fed vigil

Dim hopes for credit policy relaxation

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (AP): Whatever dance the stock and bond markets do in the days and weeks ahead, chairman Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Board is likely to be calling the tune. That's the near-unanimous expectation on Wall Street as Greenspan prepares for a series of appearances before various committees of Congress beginning this coming week.

Greenspan makes his Capitol Hill rounds at a time when hopes are dimming for any further moves by the US Central Bank to relax its credit policy.

If the outlook for the US economy alone were at issue, analysts say, the Central Bank would have a few problems pushing interest rates lower

right now, given a recent revival of worries about inflation.

But that's not the biggest deterrent bothering the private analysts and economists who make their living trying to guess the Fed's next move.

There also is the new variable of rising interest rates in Japan, West Germany and other industrialized countries, in some cases to their highest levels in several years.

This tends to exert upward pressure on US interest rates, because yields on American securities must remain competitive to attract money from international investors.

If the Fed should choose to fight that pressure, many analysts believe, the

result could well be a dollar decline in foreign exchange.

But many observers see potential pitfalls as well in a restrictive Fed policy. Such an approach theoretically increases the chances of a recession.

Beyond that, many believe it is a perilous approach in a period of shaky credit conditions in the "junk" bond market and at banks with problem loans on their hands.

"During a period of financial distress, many shocks can occur and overwhelm the financial markets," said Hugh Johnson, an analyst at First Albany Corp. in Albany, New York.

"The effect of these shocks can be aggravated by a Federal Reserve that is

reluctant (justifiably so) to add liquidity to the markets each time a decline occurs.

There is a risk that the Federal Reserve will be seduced, by declines in the dollar or intermittently strong inflation and economic data, into keeping interest rates too high, too long.

With such worries dragging it down, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 11.31 to 2,677.90 in the past week.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 76 to 187.56; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 1.16 to 440.88, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was down 6.15 at 366.08.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 172.26 million shares a day, against 161.92 million the week before.

For much of last year, the Fed generally was perceived to be facing a choice between two relatively straightforward options — tightening credit to slow inflation or easing it to stave off recession.

The assignment was a juggling act, to be sure, but there were really only two balls that had to be kept in the air.

Now, many observers worry, the Central Bank may be faced with more elaborate challenges, some of which seem to be mutually contradictory.

"It is hard to ascribe a universal cause" to the problem of rising interest

rates overseas, said James Grant, editor of the biweekly Grant's Interest Rate Observer.

"Inflation in Japan, oil prices notably withstanding, is quoted at only 1.2 per cent. Inflation in Switzerland is 5 per cent. Yet interest rates are up, violently, in both countries.

"Money-market yields have been rising in West Germany, where economic growth is stalling. But they have not been falling appreciably in the US where growth is vanishing.

"The Federal Reserve would no doubt prefer to be easier," Grant said, "but the dollar and the domestic inflation rate tie its hands."

Alshall weekly market review

Kuwait market remains subdued

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Jan 17, 1990 an average of 39.19 points with a decrease of 0.77 point — 1.93 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday Jan 10, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 66.24 points with an increase of 0.04 point — 0.06 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 15.65 million shares at a daily average of 3.13 million shares with a decrease of 12 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 3.54 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 7.635 million shares at a daily average of 1.527 million shares with an increase of 953 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.145 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4.1 million at a daily average of KD0.82 million, a decrease of 39 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.34 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.445 million at a daily average of KD0.089 million, an increase of 1383 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.006 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the investment sector came first at 55 per cent of total trading against 14 per cent last week. The National Investment Company had the lead at 58 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects at 36 per cent and Coast Investment and Development Company at 6 per cent.

The banking sector came second at 23 per cent, in which the National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 35 per cent followed by the Gulf Bank at 19 per cent and Burgan Bank at 16 per cent.

The market continues to show signs of weakness which was reflected from the decrease in activity in the Kuwaiti shares market which lost around 2 per cent during the week.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 17/01/90	Wed. 10/01/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	121.52	123.82	-2.29
The Gulf Bk	31.48	31.03	0.44
The Comm. Bk	23.71	24.59	-0.88
Al Ahli Bk	33.30	34.31	-1.01
Bk of Kt & ME	30.03	30.97	-0.94
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	27.86	29.14	-1.29
Burgan Bk	25.81	26.53	-0.73
Kt Finance House	75.80	79.92	-4.12
Sector Index	47.82	48.01	-1.09
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.37	9.37	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.93	8.93	—
IFA	26.76	29.34	-2.57

Comm. Facilities	151.25	151.24	—
National Inv.	57.84	60.78	-2.94
Kt. Inv. Proj.	89.89	91.01	-1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	95.29	96.47	-1.18
Sector Index	32.76	33.30	-0.54
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	37.08	-1.20
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	51.55	-0.86
Sector Index	35.74	36.41	-0.67
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	15.04	15.04	—
Utd. Realty	5.04	5.10	-0.06
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	67.46	67.46	—
Sector Index	16.19	16.22	-0.03
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cml. Co.	11.45	11.45	—
Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
Gulf Cables	116.42	116.42	—
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
Sector Index	30.24	30.24	—
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmpt. Co.	151.20	151.20	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	9.51	9.51	—
Pub. Whousg Co.	60.61	64.65	-4.04
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	34.53	35.45	-0.92
M. Tele. Syst.	323.81	338.10	-14.29
Sector Index	57.34	58.73	-2.39
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd. Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Utd. Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	74.71	75.86	-1.15
Sector Index	38.68	39.88	-0.20
Overall Index	38.19	39.96	-0.77

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 17/01/90	Wed. 10/01/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Intl. Bk.	89.66	88.28	1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	92.07	93.97	-1.90
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	42.42	42.42	—
Umm Al-Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.62	-0.37
G. Med. Projs.	12.63	12.63	—
Total Index	88.24	88.20	0.04

—Base period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Prague may quit rouble

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, Jan 20, (AP): Czechoslovakia may follow the example of Hungary by stopping exports payable in roubles and switching to convertible currencies, in what would represent a major split in the Comecon, sources at the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

Hungarian Trade Minister Tamas Beck announced Thursday that Hungary suspends all contracts and licenses permitting exports payable in roubles as of next Wednesday, to curb the rouble surplus in Hungarian exports.

Vladimir Dlouhy, Czechoslovak delegate to the Comecon, is due to travel to Hungary today, intending to discuss the surprising unilateral measure, sources at the State Planning Commission said yesterday.

Following a stormy three-day session of the Comecon finance commission in Prague, an agreement was reached Thursday that member countries of the East bloc trade alliance would start accounting for their mutual transactions in convertible currencies as of Jan 1, 1991.

The Hungarian decision indicated that reform-minded country is not ready to wait that long.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland announced Thursday they would abandon multilateral agreements on tourist rates of exchange of their currencies within the Comecon and start acting on a bilateral basis.

Vaclav Klaus, the Czechoslovak finance minister, called the session "extremely important" and added that "the future of the Comecon is not in integration."

"The feasibility of such agreement (to use convertible currencies) depends very much on whether we shall be given access to the Soviet market," Dusan Triska, adviser to Klaus, told the Associated Press.

Agreement soon Japanese loan package

BEIJING, Jan 20, (AP): Japan and China agreed yesterday to start finalising a major Japanese loan package, signalling an end to a seven-month freeze on talks resulting from China's military suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators.

Koichi Matsuura, director-general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Economic Co-operation Bureau, said a final decision on the loan package will be reached after the two sides exchange data on the contents of the economic assistance, Japanese sources said.

Matsuura met Thursday and Friday with Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Vice Minister Shen Juergen. He also held talks with Zhu Lilan, vice minister of the State Science and Technology Commission.

Matsuura's visit follows the lifting of martial law in Beijing last week, a move aimed at easing tensions with the United States and other Western countries and persuading them to end sanctions on badly needed soft loans for development projects.

The United States responded to the lifting of

martial law by saying it would support new World Bank loans for humanitarian purposes. Japan also welcomed the end of martial law but said it wanted to see further efforts by China before it revives its economic aid programmes.

The sources said no specific time has been set for further talks on the \$10 billion (¥55.6-billion) loan package Japan has pledged to provide for some 40 development projects in the 1991-95 period.

They said Matsuura told the Chinese that the lifting of martial law was a positive step and that Japan hopes to see China continue its policies of economic reform and opening to the outside world.

He said there has been no change in Japan's intention to help China's modernisation process through grants, government loans and technical co-operation.

The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for Japan's fulfilling its loan commitment of 470 billion yen (\$3.2 billion) for the five-year period ending this March.

Argentine prices dip after inflation surge

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 20, (Reuters): Prices in Argentina are starting to come down after a surge in inflation in late December took the 1989 rise in the cost of living to a record 5,000 per cent.

"In the last week there has been a notable fall in prices," Argentine Chamber of Commerce president Carlos de La Vega said yesterday.

On Jan 1 the government announced stiff measures that almost halved the number of banknotes in circulation in order to stem a run on the austral currency and sharp price hikes by shopkeepers and manufacturers.

Private economists said the lack of liquidity has steadied the austral and brought prices more into line with market reality after what they described as "enormous, speculative rises."

In interviews with Reuters, the economists said that many people, fearing a return to the hyper-inflation of mid-1989, had overreacted to the first signs of instability in President Carlos Menem's economic programme.

In December Argentina's cost of living rose an official 41 per cent. But economists said the figure does not reflect many price increases introduced at the end of the month. These rises, plus those of early January, should take this month's rise to over 60 per cent, despite some market-drops.

In a corner shop in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, the price of dishwashing soap was 1,600 australs (90 cents) on Wednesday, less than half the 3,400 (\$1.95) price tag it carried 10 days earlier. Soft drinks had come down to 800 australs (46 cents) a litre from 980 (56 cents).

De La Vega said that while government measures had achieved some success in cutting prices, many medium and small businessmen were being hurt by the current lack of liquidity.

The tourist industry has been particularly hit at the peak of the holiday season by the New Year's measures, which limited withdrawals from short-term deposits — the most common form of savings — to 1 million australs (\$575).

Airlines plan new airport

EAST BERLIN, Jan 20, (AP): The West German airline Lufthansa and the East German state carrier Interflug plan to build an international airport south of Berlin capable of handling 30 million passengers a year, airline officials said yesterday.

Plans call for the airport to serve both West and East Berlin and to be completed by 2005.

The two airlines also agreed to launch a joint charter company and to significantly expand co-operation in other areas.

Plans for the new airport were announced by Lufthansa chairman Heinz Reubens and Interflug chief Klaus Henkel at a joint news conference at East Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport.

Henkel said he expected Interflug to double its number of passengers to 6 million this year as a result of East Germany's decision to open its borders.

He said airplane tickets would likely become more expensive for East Germans this summer after the state stops subsidising half of the price of each ticket.

Blueprints for the new airport are expected to be completed by 1995, the two airline chairmen said. The airport will be south of Berlin and will be linked to the city centre by a subway.

Berlin is expected to become one of Germany's three busiest airports, along with Frankfurt and Cologne-Bonn.

West Berlin's Tegel Airport is served only by U.S., French and British airlines. Allied regulations ban Lufthansa from flying to Berlin. Interflug uses the Schoenefeld Airport.

In recent months the airlines have increased the number of flights between the two German states. Because allied regulations forbid them from flying over the German-German border, flight routes have to loop over Czechoslovakia or the Baltic Sea, adding to the flight time.

The two airlines said they were planning to increase weekly flights between the two German states to 50 by the end of the year, adding to the present eight routes, Reubens said.

In addition to the joint charter company, Lufthansa and Interflug also plan to set up a joint passenger service company.

Lufthansa will also install a flight simulator at Schoenefeld to train Interflug pilots for Airbus planes, three of which were recently acquired by Interflug.

Value surges

Foreign investments dip

WASHINGTON, Jan 20, (AP): Foreigners spent \$58.4 billion on direct investments in the United States in 1988, up \$300 million from 1987, according to government figures.

The Commerce Department's International Trade Administration said Thursday it recorded 1,084 foreign direct investments in 1988, down 18 per cent from 1,328 in 1987.

The agency reported that the values of the 51 transactions it could identify rose 0.5 per cent to \$58.4 billion from \$58.1 billion in 1987. It said transaction values for many investments were not publicly available.

Foreign direct investment means the direct or indirect ownership of 10 per cent or more of the

voting securities of an incorporated business, an equivalent interest in an unincorporated business or 10 per cent or more interest in real property.

Calling 1988 "the year of the big deal," the Commerce Department said the transactions included nine valued at more than \$1 billion, with a combined value of \$22.1 billion, or 38 per cent of the total.

Twenty-two other transactions were valued at \$500 million or more each and had a combined total of \$32.2 billion, or 55 per cent of the overall total. The department said a record 110 investments were worth \$100 million or more.

"As in the past four years, Japan was the source country for the largest number of transactions," the report said.

UAE gas reserves nearly doubled: Oteiba

ABU DHABI, Jan 20, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates has nearly doubled previous estimate of its gas reserves, placing it third after the Soviet Union and Iran.

UAE Oil Minister Mansour bin Juma Al Oteiba told the monthly Dira Al Watan magazine that gas reserves were now set at more than 354 trillion cubic feet, compared with independent estimates of around 200 trillion cubic feet.

The British Petroleum review of world gas puts Soviet reserves at 1,500 trillion cubic feet and Iranian reserves at 494.4 trillion feet.

The January edition of the magazine, issued by the UAE armed forces, also quoted Oteiba as saying the country had total oil reserves of more than 230 billion barrels, placing it second to Saudi Arabia. This would be equivalent to recoverable reserves of around 110 billion barrels.



Gulf Paper Manufacturing Company

express their thanks to the distinguished management of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company for their highly skilled services and prompt settlement of our claim resulting from the unfortunate fire incurred in our plant on 6th August 1989.

Our gratitude is extended to Kuwait Reinsurance Company, being the leading reinsurers of Bahrain Kuwait Insurance Company, for this claim and we seize this opportunity to wish both companies all success and prosperity in the service of the national economy.

Striking oil workers await court decision

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Jan. 20, (AP): A nation-wide strike by oil workers crippled refineries for the fourth straight day Friday, as strikers and management awaited a labour court ruling on the walkout Monday.

Refineries on Thursday were processing just 370,000 barrels of oil a day, compared with 1.1 million barrels before the strike, the state oil monopoly Petrobras said.

"Petrobras negotiated with refinery workers to avoid a total collapse of supplies, especially of cooking gas," Petrobras spokesman Carlos Pinto said.

Jorge Candido of the national strike command in Rio said eight of Brazil's 11 refineries were idle and two others were operating below normal levels. Only the refinery in Betim, in east-central Brazil, maintained its output of about 121,000 barrels a day, he said.

Crude oil production was unaffected. Brazil pumps about 650,000 barrels of oil a day.

The strike began Tuesday, when most of Petrobras' 60,151 employees walked off their jobs for higher pay.

The strikers want a raise of 64.9 per cent plus 4 per cent for productivity, retroactive to last September. The company has offered 21.5 per cent.

Union leaders say the increase is to offset losses during wage-and-price freezes in 1987 and 1989. The freezes were part of an unsuccessful attempt to control inflation, which was a record 1,765 per cent last year.

Salaries for Petrobras workers range from 3,000 new cruzeiros (\$220) month to about 50,000 new cruzeiros (\$3,700) for top executives.

The superior labour court in Brasilia, the capital, is to rule on the demands Monday.

Jordan cost of living rises 26pc

AMMAN, Jan. 20, (Reuters): After years of low inflation Jordan's cost of living soared 26 per cent in 1989, matching a plunge in the value of the dinar, official figures show.

The statistics department said the cost of living index rose to 148.1 in December from 143.9 in November and 117.6 in December 1988, an increase of 25.9 per cent for the year.

The dinar lost 26 per cent of its dollar value in 1989 but has stabilised since an influx of Arab aid in August.

The cost of living index, based on a basket of goods and services which a family living on a public-sector salary might consume, rose only 54 per cent in the entire decade before 1989.

It was unchanged in 1986, dropped slightly in 1987 and rose 6.6 per cent in 1988 before taking off last year.

There has been no general increase in public-sector wages since March 1985 and the government does not plan one this year.

Its austerity 1990, budget, now before Parliament, proposes cuts in real public spending and higher tax revenue, but allows 60 million dinars (\$92 million) for food subsidies.

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.		
	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29174	0.29289
Sterling	0.47932	0.48131
DM	0.17029	0.17108
Sw. Fr.	0.19153	0.19243
Y. Yen	0.00022872	0.00022971
Japan	0.001997	0.0020067
Bah. Dir.	0.77364	0.77710
U.A.E. Dir.	0.079417	0.079752
S. ryal	0.077776	0.078104
Q. ryal	0.080126	0.080464
O. ryal	0.75756	0.76095

KUWAIT, Jan 20, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.		
Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-5/16	8-9/16
3 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-5/16	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indian rupee	0.01739	
Sri Lanka rupee	0.07400	
Pakistani rupee	0.01770	
Bangladesh taka	0.00890	
US dollar	0.29280	
Pound sterling	0.48130	
U.A.E. dirham	0.77980	
Deutsche mark	0.71200	
Japanese yen	0.00215	

Bush's 1991 budget — \$64b question

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, (UPI): When President Bush unveils his \$1.2 trillion 1991 budget Jan. 29, he and Congress will start playing a high-stakes version of the popular, but rigged, late 1950s TV quiz show, "The \$64,000 Question."

Only Bush and the lawmakers will be playing "the \$64 billion question" because that is the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law's deficit reduction target for the 1991 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The major categories in this \$64 billion election year quiz, when all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and one-third of the 100 Senate seats are at stake, will include taxes, defence cuts, Medicare and Medicaid cutbacks, domestic programme reductions and how to fund new initiatives.

But unlike contestant Charles van Doren and others on "The \$64,000 Question," cancelled in November 1958 amid a huge TV quiz show scandal, lawmakers playing "The \$64 billion Question" will not be slipped the answer in advance.

And there should be plenty of hard

questions to answer after Bush submits what is expected to be a record \$1.23 trillion budget — up from the current fiscal 1990 budget of \$1.15 trillion.

"I think the question from last year are the same questions we're going to face for (fiscal) '91 — in spades," said House Budget Committee chairman Leon Panetta, Democrat-California.

"We'll probably see a pretty rough and tumble budget year from beginning to end," added Senate Budget Committee chairman James Sasser, D-Tenn. "It'll probably be more bitter than last year. You won't have the era of good feeling. I think it's going to start out on a relatively sour note."

Republicans agree it will be harder to reach a budget agreement this year between Congress and the administration than it was last year.

"I think it's going to be tough, notwithstanding all the euphoria about 'peace dividends' and all that," Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas said referring to budget savings from anticipated Pentagon spending cuts.

Added representative Bill Frenzel, Republican-Minnesota, ranking

Republican on the House Budget Committee: "I expect a longer, tougher year."

Congressional leaders and key participants in the budget process said in interviews there likely will not be a "budget summit" this year like that one that set supposedly easy-to-reach savings and revenue levels last year.

Sasser, echoing the view of many top Democrats in Congress, said "there's a feeling on the part of some of our leadership that we were had" by Bush in the summit process because Bush said his call for a capital gains tax cut was part of the deal.

Democrats vehemently disagreed and spent half a year fighting the proposal, which eventually was beaten in the Senate. But Bush has vowed to push for the cut again this year.

Part of last year's budget summit deal was to put off the tougher decisions on taxes and spending cuts until this year by using what critics called artificial savings gimmicks and "blue smoke and mirrors" approaches to help meet last year's deficit target of \$100 billion.

Despite that, Congress still failed to meet the \$100 billion target, that prompted imposition of \$16 billion in automatic, across-the-board spending cuts in defence and domestic programmes to reduce the deficit.

And democratic leaders say that if Bush does not agree to increase revenues this year to help meet the deficit target, Congress will again have to resort to gimmicks such as pay date shifts and overly optimistic economic assumptions about lower interest rates and inflation and higher growth rates.

In other words, the effort to answer the hard questions posed by the Gramm-Rudman deficit target this year could end up being just as rigged as the answers to questions on "The \$64,000 Question" back in the 1950s.

Among the toughest issues facing Bush and members of Congress this year are: how much to cut defence spending in light of the democratisation of Eastern Europe and the corresponding reduction of the Soviet military threat. "I think there'll be a big shoot-out," Frenzel said of the upcoming defence debate.

While billions of dollars in defence cuts are certain, Democrats will likely push for more Pentagon savings than Bush wants — particularly if, as expected, Bush keeps his "no new taxes" pledge.

Without new revenues — which top congressional Democrats are not likely to propose on their own this election year — lawmakers would have to reach the \$64 billion deficit target mostly from spending cuts and other savings.

Dole said while Republicans expect "a major battle", they will try to stifle any Democratic feeding frenzy at the \$232 billion Pentagon budget trough.

"Things like (the US invasion of) Panama indicate... we can't be running around just willy-nilly cutting defence spending," Dole said. "We've got to be strong. We've got to be prepared for anything. Today, Panama, tomorrow, who knows what it will be?"

Whether to heed Bush's renewed call to cut the capital gains tax on profits from the sale of assets such as stocks, bonds and real estate.

A bitter partisan fight on the issue derailed the budget process most of

1989 before it was defeated in the Senate amid Democratic charges it was a giveaway to the rich. In speeches earlier this month, Bush has been hard for the tax cut, claiming it would stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Congressional leaders say that while chances for passage of the cut are better this year than last, Democrats may push to have it tied to an expansion of individual retirement accounts, which benefit more middle income Americans, or to a larger revenue package that includes tax increases.

Democrats may push again for elimination of what they call an unfair income tax "bubble" in which couples making more than \$172,000 a year are taxed at 28 per cent while those making \$72,000 to \$172,000 a year pay at 33 per cent.

But Democratic leaders, beaten on the "bubble" issue last year, are likely to be more reluctant this election year about proposing that reform or any other tax increase without administration support so that the "tax and spend" label can't be used against Democrats in this year's elections.

Dole's proposal sparks major controversy

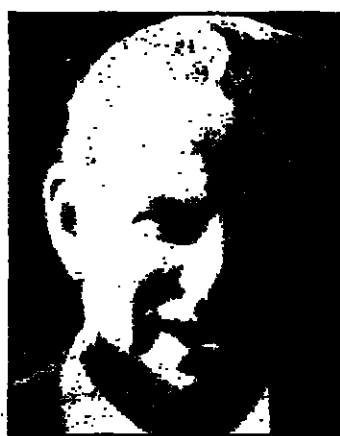
Baker seeking support for aid

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, (UPI): Secretary of State James Baker asked Senate leaders yesterday to give the Bush administration flexibility in allocating foreign aid this year by cutting money for some nations so others can be helped.

Baker met in the Capitol with Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine and Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas in a discussion of the Bush administration's proposal to juggle the allocations voted by Congress last year.

The private meeting was the latest development in a debate over foreign aid sparked by Dole's proposal this week to cut by 5 per cent aid earmarked for major recipients, such as Israel, and use the savings — about \$400 million — to help countries in Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Dole's proposal sparked a



James Baker

major controversy, mostly because it suggested a cut of 5 per cent in the \$3 billion in annual foreign aid that is earmarked for Israel.

Israel protested the suggestion its aid from the United States might be cut, and Thursday

Israel Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, after a series of meetings at the White House, Pentagon and State Department, said he was given reason to believe there will be no reduction in US financial assistance to Israel in fiscal year 1991.

Dole told reporters Baker's plan, still very much in the drafting stage, differs from his in that the money realised through cutting selected countries would not go to Eastern Europe but to countries that would be cut off due to lack of money.

Of the total of \$9.9 billion in the annual US foreign aid package, not counting multilateral aid or farm assistance, \$8 billion was earmarked for specific countries by Congress, leaving the administration about \$650 million short of what it planned to provide all other countries.

About 92 per cent of the military aid and 82 per cent of the economic aid is earmarked for

specific countries.

The United States currently gives Israel \$1.8 billion in military assistance and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance, all in the form of non-repayable grants. In addition, Israel receives about \$660 million in various other forms, including support for Israeli defence research and development projects.

The Philippines, another major recipient of earmarked US aid, though at much lower levels than Israel, also protested at the possibility of a cut in aid. Besides Israel and the Philippines, the other three top recipients of US economic aid are Turkey, Pakistan, and Egypt.

The Bush administration has the authority to shift foreign aid allocations, but Dole said such an action without the acquiescence of congressional leaders, would immediately bring legislation revoking the authority.

Fed may act to lower rates

Stocks and bonds rebound

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, (Reuters): Wall Street stocks rebounded after recent losses to close moderately higher yesterday, supported by a number of corporate takeovers and a rise in US treasury bonds.

In other markets the dollar fell slightly on profit-taking and oil prices rose on forecasts for renewed cold weather.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 11.52 points to close at 2,677.90. For the week the 30-share index fell 11.31 points, weighed down by a 20-point decline on Monday and a 33-point drop on Wednesday. New York Stock Exchange volume on Friday was a moderately active 185.6 million shares.

Traders said the expiration of some financial options and futures contracts, which sometimes cause volatility, had little impact.

"Today will go down as a fairly dull day," said Smith Barney technical analyst William Raftery. He said the rally was reaction to recent falls, but "the

question is the sustainability. We still think the market is in the process of a correction."

Currency dealers said the dollar fell slightly against most major currencies after rising sharply on Thursday in the belief that interest rates would remain firm from now. Firm interest rates tend to support the dollar. The dollar closed at 1.7115 West German marks, off from 1.7158 at Thursday's close, and fell to 146.00 Japanese yen from 146.35 on Thursday.

The report revived hopes the Fed may act to lower interest rates soon. The 30-year bond rose 23/32 to close at 98-13/32 to yield 8.27 per cent, down from 8.34 per cent on Thursday.

In precious metals, the February gold contract was slightly lower on the New York Commodity Exchange, losing 30 cents to close at \$410.90 an ounce.

Living standards have improved

BAGHDAD, Jan. 20, (Reuters): The Iraqi government issued figures yesterday saying the living standards of its people had improved over the last 10 years and public services were better.

Average monthly income rose from 23 dinars (\$74) in 1979 to 59 dinars (\$189) in 1988, Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj told the Iraqi News Agency INA in a report on a one-year survey of families across the country.

Faraj said the percentage of educated people over the age of 10 increased from 52 per cent in 1977 to 71 per cent in 1987.

The average workload of a primary school teacher declined from 28 children in 1978-79 to 23 in 1988-89 and of a high school teacher from 31 children to 23 in the same period, he said.

But in higher education each teacher had an average 20 students in 1988-89, up from 17 in 1978-79.

The proportion of doctors rose from five per 10,000 people in 1979 to seven per 10,000 in 1988, Faraj said, but the proportion of hospital beds fell from 19 per 10,000 to 17 in the same period.

The percentage of families living in houses built of brick went up from 61 per cent in 1979 to 89 per cent in 1988.

Mubarak predicts IMF accord shortly

CAIRO, Jan. 20, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published yesterday he expected agreement soon with the International Monetary Fund on a package of economic reforms but five obstacles still had to be overcome.

Egypt is engaged in protracted negotiations with the IMF over reforms allowing it to reschedule part of its \$50 billion foreign debt and release new credits for badly-needed development.

"After we almost reached an agreement in July we were surprised by new pressure (from the IMF) during October and November," Mubarak told Cairo's Al Gomhouriyyeh newspaper.

"It was impossible to accept it (the new IMF demand) and impose it on our citizens," the daily reported him as saying.

Of the five points still outstanding, Mubarak mentioned only two in the newspaper interview — an IMF demand that Egypt raise interest rates and devalue the Egyptian pound.

He described both steps as inflationary, saying the IMF demand on the exchange rate would represent a "huge jump, a gigantic jump" in prices.

"I don't want to fix the economy overnight and by doing so kill the citizen," he told the semi-official newspaper.

Egypt has been trying to reduce massive state subsidies by gradually increasing prices of many basic commodities to avoid widespread unrest.

Mubarak said that his decision to relieve former Interior Minister, General Zaki Badr from his post was dictated by the country's general interest.

DHL annual conference

DHL World-wide Express managers from throughout the Middle East region are holding their annual conference in Singapore, with international management from the company's global network.

The three-day conference with more than 100 Middle East managers, which opened yesterday focused on DHL's future plans and developments to enhance its customer services in the 1990s.

Management at the conference represented DHL's operations in the Gulf states, Saudi Arabia — where DHL operates in association with SNAS Worldwide Express — the Near East countries, including Turkey, Cyprus and Pakistan, and Europe, Asia and Australasia.

The troubled retailers also announced the appointment of a new chairman, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board G. William Miller, and that the units would disassociate themselves with the Campeau name by operating in the future as Federated Department Stores Inc.

Meanwhile, International Business Machines Corp. said Wednesday it took a 2.42 billion one-time charge in the fourth quarter of 1989 to finance a restructuring plan which includes reducing its work force by 10,000 people.

The 2.42 billion charge resulted in 1989 fourth-quarter earnings of \$91 million, or 1.04 a share, down 74.8 per cent from 2.34 billion or 3.97 a share in the year-ago quarter. IBM's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year.

Total revenues for the fourth quarter, including support services and software, were 20.46 billion, up 2.3 per cent compared with 20 billion in the year-ago period.

Sales of computers were virtually flat in the fourth quarter at 14.35 billion, compared with 14.26 billion in the last quarter of 1988.

On the takeover front, stockholders of Holiday Corp. Wednesday overwhelmingly approved the 2.2 billion buyout of Holiday Inns in North America by Bass PLC of London and a spinoff of Holiday's remaining companies into Promus Inc.

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. said Tuesday it was making a 6 per share cash offer to acquire the remaining stock of the Japanese company does not already own in Subaru of America Inc.

The week in business

American trade deficit widens

Consumer prices index up

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, (UPI): Economic indicators this week showed inflation at its highest annual level since the nation's last recession, sharply lower housing starts for 1989 and a trade deficit that widened unexpectedly.

Inflation at the retail level was at 4.6 per cent last year, the largest annual advance of consumer prices since 1981, and at 0.4 per cent in December, the Labour Department said on Thursday.

The annual retail inflation rate of 4.6 per cent compared with an increase of 4.4 per cent the year before and was the largest annual change since an 8.9 per cent rise in 1981, the department said.

The increase in the consumer price index, which tracks the cost of a hypothetical basket of consumer goods, contained a period of moderate inflation last month. Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent in November.

Although food prices last year posted their biggest gain since 1980, the real culprit in the annual price increase was higher petroleum-based energy products, the department said.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said the latest economic news is proof inflation "has remained very steady" and suggested the Federal Reserve Board take a cue that "lower interest rates are justified."

In a separate report, the department said weekly average real earnings were unchanged in December after falling 0.6 per cent the month before. For the year, Americans earned 1.3 per cent less than the year before.

Exceptionally cold weather caused housing starts to plummet 8 per cent in December after a revised 5.7 per cent drop in November and new construction for all of 1989 was at its lowest level since 1982, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

As the economy lost momentum under the high interest rate policy of the Federal Reserve, housing starts fell 7.7 per cent to 1.37 million in 1989 from 1.49 million in 1988, the department's Census Bureau said.

The 1989 starts figure was the lowest since 1.06 million in the recession year of 1982, when the economy started one of its longest stretches of recorded peace-time growth.

Spurred by declining airplane exports, the nation's trade deficit widened in November to its highest monthly level in 1989 at 10.5 billion from 10.2 billion the month before, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Imports totalled 40.7 billion in November while exports slipped to 30.2 billion, largely as a result of the strike against Boeing Co., which reduced exports of airplanes to 537.2 million in November from 1.4 billion the month before.

Analysts had expected the trade deficit for November to improve slightly to about 10 billion.

Resolution of the strike against Boeing Co. helped push the nation's industrial production up 0.4 per cent in December after a revised 0.3 per cent gain in November, the Federal Reserve Board said Wednesday.

The Fed said the freezing weather throughout much of the nation last month caused a sharp rise in utility output. The cold weather also contributed to some production disruptions in the petroleum refining and construction supplies industries.

Aircraft production returned to normal levels following the settlement in late November of a strike against Boeing, one of the nation's major aircraft makers.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government, in an apparent move to avoid an escalation of trade friction with the United States, announced Wednesday it will continue voluntary controls on car exports to the US market for another year, starting April 1.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga, in announcing the decision at a news conference, said the ceiling, which will remain at 2.3 million units a year, will be removed as soon as a steady decline in exports is ascertained.

In corporate news, Campeau Corp.'s two US retail divisions filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors Monday in a move that will force a restructuring of the companies' 10 per centigous department store chains.

The chapter 11 filing in the US bankruptcy court for the southern district of Ohio was widely anticipated by retail insiders and securities analysts after Campeau failed in its last-ditch efforts to refinance the combined 7.7 billion debt of Federated Department Stores Inc. and Allied Stores Corp.

The two retail divisions — which operate a total of 258 stores with 100,000 employees — had been crippled by a cash-flow crisis that had scared some suppliers away.

The troubled retailers also announced the appointment of a new chairman, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board G. William Miller, and that the units would disassociate themselves with the Campeau name by operating in the future as Federated Department Stores Inc.

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كندا والولايات



The sunbaskers

A pair of white polar bears pass the time in the sunshine at the Zurich Zoo Jan 17 as unreasonably mild temperatures hit the area. (Reuter wirephoto)

Dutch mercy-killing row intensifies

THE HAGUE, (Reuter). The grim death of a 47-year-old coma patient from deliberate starvation by doctors has underscored the Netherlands' deep ambivalence towards mercy killing.

Tragic Ineke Stinissen, her food supply-line cut off, wasted away and died after 11 days as the nation debated the ethics of ending a life marked by a coma for 14 years.

"Her death in a convalescent home on Friday intensified the controversy. Despite the traditional Dutch tolerance of voluntary euthanasia, the case showed that the Netherlands is as troubled as other countries over mercy killing of patients too ill to make their wishes known."

"Ineke has become a monument of medical and judicial powerlessness, cowardice and hypocrisy," wrote Utrecht University anaesthetist Bob Smalhout.

Stinissen fell into a coma due to an anaesthesia error while giving birth in 1974 and her husband Gerhard fought a long court battle to try to force Wiedenbroek Convalescent Home in the eastern town of Eindhoven to allow her to die.

Last November, a Dutch district court in Arnhem ruled that he could not force doctors to end her life.

But it left the way open for her death by ruling that her artificial feeding was

medical treatment at their discretion to stop, rather than life-sustaining treatment they are duty-bound to continue. Responding to the ruling, the convalescent home stopped her feeding and while she starved for 11 days the issue was fought in the courts, discussed in parliament and debated in the media.

Smallhout has led doctors criticising the court ruling as a weak attempt to avoid tough questions over euthanasia. This medical-judicial twist was invented so that doctors and jurists can wash their hands of guilt," he wrote.

"Officially only useless medical treatment has been stopped...so no euthanasia has been committed, the law has not been overstepped and so-called medical ethics have not been sullied...one wouldn't do such a thing to a dog," he said.

The Dutch association for voluntary euthanasia — which urges healthy people to deposit a statement on whether they want their life ended if they become terminally ill — says it has gained 50 members a day through the Stinissen case.

"The case has forced people to face reality. People call and say: This case has set me thinking and I don't want what happened to her to happen to me," said chairwoman Pit Bakker.

Other experts argue the Stinissen

case has set a dangerous precedent that makes it too easy for doctors to kill patients.

The Dutch Patients Association unsuccessfully appealed for a court order last week to renew Stinissen's feeding.

The issue of mercy-killing is already a divisive one in the Netherlands and was a major difficulty in forming a new centre-left government last November.

Euthanasia is officially illegal in the Netherlands but an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 cases occur each year.

Doctors are rarely prosecuted if they have followed strict medical guidelines, which include the requirement that a fatally ill patient specifically asks to die.

Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' Christian Democrats want a new law that would reaffirm doctors are criminally liable for euthanasia while the coalition Labour Party wants to legalise mercy killing under existing medical guidelines.

In a compromise, the two parties agreed to a commission, set up this week and due to report in 1991, on doctors' attitudes to euthanasia. But many doctors have said they will refuse to be interviewed, partly out of fear of prosecution.

Hours after Stinissen died, Dutch prosecutors said they would open a criminal investigation over her death, a routine practice in euthanasia cases.

Las Vegas 'odd man out' in the Oscar race

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI). The oddsmakers in Las Vegas are hardliners when it comes to posting the probabilities for most anything worth betting on: sports, elections, the Academy awards.

But the desert gambling spa often demonstrates an amazing lack of knowledge on how the 4,700 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences cast their ballots for movies and performances.

It is virtually impossible for anyone to accurately predict the big six winners in the Oscar race — four acting trophies, best picture and best director — were it not for organised critics and early prognostications by the entertainment media.

Then, too, the odds could be tilted by the results of the Golden Globe awards, which often prestage the winners — and just as often do not.

Although Las Vegas is a glitzy show biz town with glamorous stage extravaganzas and superstar attractions, it lacks genuine knowledge of motion pictures.

At least it would seem so on the basis of the latest line laid down by John Van Rhyn, director of Race and Sports Book operations at the Desert Inn Hotel and Casino.

A loose early morning line by critics groups show the six favourites to be:

Best Picture: "Do the Right Thing"; Best

Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis (My Left Foot); Best Actress: Michelle Pfeiffer (The Fabulous Baker Boys); Best Supporting Actor: Brenda Fricker (My Left Foot); Best Director: Spike Lee (Do the Right Thing).

Doubleless the Vegas oddsmakers took these projections into consideration, but arrived at some very different conclusions.

For instance, Van Rhyn made Jack Lemmon the 5-to-2 favourite for best actor in "Dad."

Lemmon failed to be mentioned in any previous poll. Betting against Lemmon at those odds could break the Desert Inn's bank.

But by and large, Van Rhyn has come close to the mark in listing the possible nominees. The odds may not support the Academy membership's thinking, but then fathoming the emotional factor, sentiment and personal considerations — like friendship — are virtually impossible.

For whatever reasons, Van Rhyn did not see fit to set odds on who would win the Oscar for best director.

However, here is the Las Vegas chart on five of the six major categories:

Best film — "Glory" 7 to 2, "Born on the Fourth of July" 4 to 1, "Driving Miss Daisy" 7 to 1, "When Harry Met Sally..." 8 to 1, "Do the Right Thing" 10 to 1, "The Fabulous Baker Boys" 14 to 1.

Best actor — Jack Lemmon (Dad) 5 to 2, Tom Cruise (Born on the Fourth of July) 3 to 1, Morgan Freeman (Driving Miss Daisy) 10 to 1, Kevin Costner (Field of Dreams) 10 to 1, Daniel Day-Lewis (My Left Foot) 14 to 1.

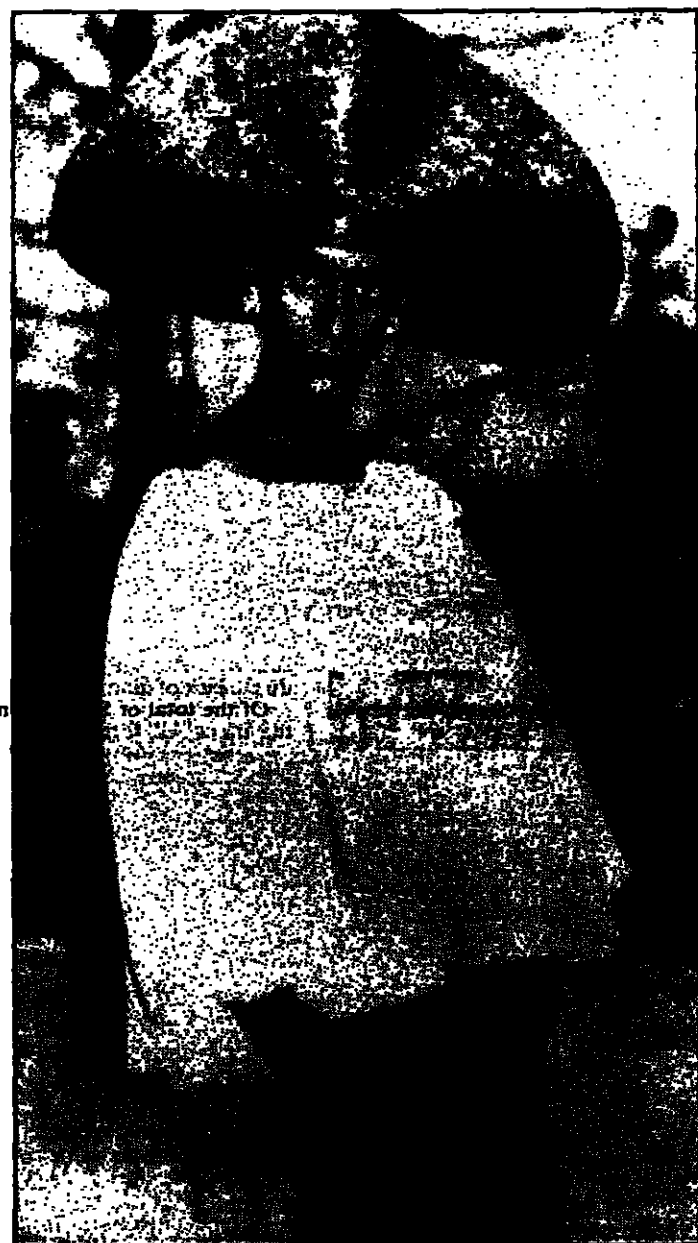
Best actress — Michelle Pfeiffer (The Fabulous Baker Boys) 7 to 2, Jessica Tandy (Driving Miss Daisy) 4 to 1, Jessica Lange (Music Box) 5 to 1, Sally Field (Steel Magnolias) 7 to 1, Meg Ryan (When Harry Met Sally) 10 to 1.

Best supporting actor — Denzel Washington (Glory) 2 to 1, Martin Landau (Crimes and Misdemeanors) 7 to 1, Danny Aiello (Do the Right Thing) 8 to 1, Beau Bridges (The Fabulous Baker Boys) 8 to 1, Morgan Freeman (Glory) 10 to 1.

Best supporting actress — Angelica Huston (Enemies, A Love Story) 7 to 2, Daryl Hannah (Steel Magnolias) 4 to 1, Laura San Giacomo (Sex, Lies and Videotape) 9 to 2, Briget Fonda (Scandal) 7 to 1, Brenda Fricker (My Left Foot) 12 to 1.

Nominations for the 62nd annual Oscar race will be announced by the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences Feb 14, at which time some of the odds established in Las Vegas will change dramatically.

The reason is simple. Some highly weighted favourites in today's odds will not have been nominated at all.



Right: Rocco Barocco model wears a carnation patterned jacket with laced sleeves and sides, above a figure hugging skirt. Left: A model previews a smock top and matching hat. (Reuter wirephoto).



Femininity keynote of summer couture

PARIS, (AP). Soft and alluringly sexy are the way couturiers see women and their clothes for next summer in early sneak previews of haute couture shows.

Designers are frantically stitching up hems — very short — for the shows that get under way this weekend. Luxury clothes are more feminine than ever. There will be softer shoulders, deeper décolletés, feminine flounces and embroideries.

The shows this week will be more "Italian" than ever, with Gianfranco Ferré now haute couturier for Dior, and Angelo Tarlazzi designing for Guy Laroche's couture house, following Laroche's death last winter.

Gianni Versace is also helping on the Italians-in-Paris bandwagon with a show of his "Atelier" styles and a gala dinner at the Hotel Ritz on Saturday night.

"Paris is the best showcase," said Versace, who displayed his

furred and fussy clothes on mannequins at a museum last season, but considers this show with five models his real Paris couture debut.

But Italians won't be grabbing all the headlines.

Fashion-watchers are looking forward to the Lanvin show with French designer Claude Montana now at the design helm. Will the avant-garde creator produce the kind of opulent elegance usually seen at this venerable house? They'll find out on Tuesday with the Lanvin show near the Ecole Militaire.

Pierre Cardin, an active supporter of Soviet glasnost, is bringing in two Moscow beauties — Natasha and Svetlana — to help present his collection Monday.

As the first French couturier to breach the iron curtain, Cardin has manufactured and sold clothes in the Soviet Union for several years. He was instrumental in helping set up a French

model agency, "Glamour," there last fall, and also encouraged the Soviet government to accord professional status to models.

Besides hiked-up hemlines, some high notes of the upcoming 25 couture shows revealed in the early previews include billowy organzas by Ferre for Dior, and sexy, draped and structured shapes in silk at Givenchy.

Hanae Mori, celebrating her 35th year in fashion, is kicking up her heels with some shorter, knee-revealing styles, which is new for this usually-conservative Japanese designer.

Louis Feraud plans to show off garden-party girls in fluid dresses with appliqued leaves, but also revealed a bit of bare midriff in a little silk suit with graphic striped bows in a preview photo session.

Jean-Louis Scherrer is apparently still inspired by his all-time favourite theme of the

rich Raj looks from India — turbans, silk braid and all.

Colours will be hot and spicy, starting with a sharp shocking pink suit by Erik Mortensen at Balmain. Karl Lagerfeld is going for some warm corals in his collection of abbreviated styles for Chanel.

Ungaro previewed an intriguing silk suit of pink and lavender piped in fanciful swirls of tangerine around the asymmetric decollete jacket.

Philippe Venet uses mandarin orange and plum to advantage in a short raw silk suit with trapeze jacket.

After his Sunday couture show, Christian Lacroix's big moment will be the Sunday night launch of his first perfume with a musical show at the opera comique. Named "C'est La Vie," the scent will be presented in an elaborate bottle sculpted with a handprint and a little coral branch — a Lacroix signature.

All proceeds will go to the health service

GDR puts Berlin Wall up for sale

EAST BERLIN, (Reuter). Huge slabs of grey concrete, daubed with graffiti and garish paintings, lie like tombstones in East Berlin's guarded border strip. Soon, they will be scattered through the world to successful bidders.

East Germany has found a certain money-spinner in the graveyard of the Berlin Wall, for decades a symbol of cold war bitterness.

More than 50 sections of the wall are held in a screened section of the broad "death strip" that traces The West Berlin frontier.

Helge Moebius, the man selling the Berlin Wall for the East German government, told Reuters he has had offers from Los Angeles to Tokyo for what he calls a "piece of history."

"The sort of places the wall pieces are destined for include museums, banks or, perhaps, big hotels looking for an interesting centrepiece for a foyer," he says.

The highest offer so far? "Oh, 600,000 marks (\$300,000). That sort of level, sections from historic areas... like the Brandenburg Gate cost more."

Currency must be as "hard" as the wall and all proceeds go to the health service.

"You have to remember this is an investment. There is a limited supply and in 100 years a segment will be worth a lot more than the purchase price."

"Some walls have a special significance in history," he reflected. "Think of the Great Wall of China, the Walling Wall in occupied Jerusalem. This wall has just such a significance, the more so when it comes down."

Moebius explains that each 3.6 metre by 1.2 metre (10 feet by 3 feet) slab will carry a government stamp and a certificate signed by a senior official. "Only these pieces can be guaranteed genuine. There is already lots of phoney wall on sale in the West."

An export manager with the East German Linex Company, Moebius sees no disrespect towards almost 100 people shot dead in the floodlit border strip since the wall was built in 1961.

"I am at ease with my conscience," he said.

"We're not selling parts of the wall where there are black crosses. These are just sections taken down to make way for the new border crossings."

All around the 161 km (100 mile) wall, on the West side, are crosses set up to commemorate people shot dead.

Some requests, however, cross the frontiers of good taste.

"We had an inquiry from a West Berlin restaurant that wanted to dismantle a watchtower and put it up in their garden as an attraction. We turned them down. Too macabre," he said.

Moebius says East German citizens should also be allowed to buy small pieces of wall. But he aims to keep as many sections intact as possible.

"We plan to collate everything in a catalogue — photographs of each section, who owns it, where it is and, probably, how much it cost."

"The final word in brazenness," one East German citizen commented. "It was enough we had to suffer under this thing without them going out and making a super-show of it."

But most East Germans, Moebius says, welcome the move to sell the wall before Western speculators beat them to it.

"We get letters, say, from someone separated for 30 years from her sister by the wall. We try to explain to them and they usually understand."

"I can understand the objections of someone who escaped across the wall and was hit by an automatic gun and perhaps still carries a splinter of steel around in him..." he said.

Since the beleaguered Communist Party threw open the wall and opened new crossings in November, demolition has continued uninterrupted on the Western side. Optimists believe the East Germans may remove it entirely by the end of the year.

By day and, by moonlight

thousands of tourists chip with chisels and hammers at the Western face for their piece of history. "Wall tours" offer colourful selections from what the top-level communist government grandly called the anti-fascist protection barrier. No sign of the official stamp here.

French painter Thierry Noir spent five years painting long sections of the wall with colourful, bizarre images. Comic paintings of long-nosed men and mystical creatures brightened many West Berlin streets blighted by stark concrete. Border guards once arrested him after he attached a urinal to the wall.

"It's nearly all gone now. My flat is opposite one of the paintings and when we hear chipping we reach out and shout," he told Reuters.

"It's not so important my 'workshop' is gone. It's good the wall's coming down. What makes me sad is that people are making money out of this," he said. "If they're to make money they should give it to the families of people killed out there."

Colonel Wolter surveys the wall sections sprawling chaotically amid rainswept lime trees and frontier fences. "I've been working in the border guard since 1972. Here it is up for sale," he said, shaking his head and exclaiming in disbelief.

Euro-Asia overland trade route may be a reality by 2000

BANGKOK, (Reuter). An ancient dream of a direct overland trade route linking Europe with Southeast Asia could become a reality by the year 2000.

United Nations officials say the last major obstacle to plans for the Pan-Asian highway was overcome when Burma (Myanmar), lying between India and East Asia, agreed last October to co-operate.

Burma had previously refused to take part in the UN project to create a 65,000-km (40,000-mile) network by building new roads or upgrading existing ones. Stretching from Turkey and

Iran, it would pass through many other countries to Vietnam and Singapore.

"The completion of the Asian highway is of great importance to the region for it opens up new perspectives in the development of road transport, trade and tourism at subregional and regional levels," said a joint news release by Burma and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

"With the participation of Myanmar, the missing link in the highway network between Bangladesh and Thailand will be removed, making it

possible eventually to travel from Southeast Asia to Europe overland," said S. Kibria, head of Escap in Bangkok.

The project was first put forward in 1959 under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (Ecafe) as a means to bind countries together peacefully and propel them towards greater prosperity.

But the dream was shattered by the war in Indo-China.

UN officials now estimate the whole project could take another 10 years to complete.

Countries involved are Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Diplomats said Rangoon's previous opposition to the plan was probably due to the Burmese government's problems in suppressing ethnic insurgent groups.

"The fact that Myanmar has agreed to join is a tremendous breakthrough for us. One hopes that following the elections (Burmese elections in May) there will be more international recognition for the project," said David

Turner, head of Escap's transport and communications division.

"We have asked the Burmese to designate roads they wish to include in the project and we are hoping for a link between Rangoon and Bangkok," he added.

A Pan-Asian highway would substantially cut some distances for transporting goods — for instance the distance between Rangoon and Bangkok by land is less than half that by sea.

Island nations involved in the scheme could benefit from improved ferry links with ports on the highway.

Interest in the project was revived in

the 1980s by China's open-door policy, which led to Beijing's decision in 1988 to co-operate officially with the project.

Economic reforms in Indo-China in recent years have provided a boost as some governments realised the need to upgrade roads and infrastructure to attract foreign investment.

It was also helped in 1988 when Thailand reversed its policy of isolation towards Indo-China's communist states with Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan unveiling his bold initiative to turn "battlegrounds into marketplaces."

Participating countries have agreed to designate their main national routes as a part of the overall project, and will fill in gaps and upgrade substandard sections with the help of soft loans and bilateral funding.

Increased flows of trade and commerce along the route are expected to stimulate economic development, particularly in rural areas.

Academics in Thailand say it would encourage the development of regional hubs of industry — at places like Chiang Mai in the country's north — to relieve pressure on congested and polluted Bangkok.

SNIPPETS

Hunt on for ex-soldier-leader of robbery gang: Northern Police District (NPD) has launched a manhunt for a former Constabulary sergeant who now leads a six-man gang of robbers operating nation-wide.

WPD officials said Sgt Eddie Calingog was last detailed at the Anti-Carnapping Task Force in Camp Crame. He went on absence without leave until he was dismissed months ago.

Calingog recently escaped a dragnet around his hideout in Kalookan City by the NPD's Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (AOCTF).

But two of his men, Cesar Malinao, 32 and Ingo Salies, 16, were arrested recently by Cpl Ceferino Lapuz and Patrolmen Cesar Rivera and Arthur Ramirez.

Malinao was surprised in his hideout in Sta Quiteria, Kalookan City. He threw a grenade at the policemen but it did not explode.

Seized from him was a .38 revolver and two more grenades. Malinao led the policemen to Salies's hideout in the squatter's area on 7th Ave., Grace Park, Kalookan City.

Salies told the raiders his gangmates had just left before they arrived.

Malinao and Salies admitted to NPD Superintendent Brig. Gen. Edgar dula Torres and Lt Reynaldo Roldan that their gang has pulled off at least 15 robberies in Metro Manila.

"May birada rin kami sa probinsya" they said.

Malinao and Salies said last month, they held up the RFC supermart in Las Pinas of P700,000 and shot dead a security guard who tried to stop them.

They received P25,000 for the job, the two said.

Their gang had also held up in Grace Park and a sari-sari store in Barangay Bases, Quezon City last July.

Child abuse: Do you know of a case of child abuse in your barangay? Report this to the Bureau of Child and Youth Welfare, Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Assistant director Lourdes Balanosa said that DSWD needs the cooperation of the public to protect the welfare child victims of abuse and maltreatment.

Child Welfare Council executive director Ma. Elena Caraballo appealed to the participants of a public forum on adoption to help uphold children's rights.

Citing the Child and Youth Welfare Code Caraballo said that every effort should be exerted to promote child welfare and to enhance opportunities for a useful and happy life.

Institutions like the school, church, and the community should assist the home and the state in preparing the child for the responsibilities of adulthood, she said.

DSWD provides the following services for children and youth: day-care services, supplemental feeding, residential care, centre-based services, and counselling.

Under the child and welfare code, a dependent, abandoned child may be put in the care of the DSWD or a duly licensed child caring institution.

2 slain in bank vehicle rob: An armoured vehicle driver, a Metrobank security guard and a cash clerk were shot by robbers who held up their vehicle in Calapan, Mindoro Oriental.

The driver and the guard died to death before they could be airlifted to Manila, People's Journal learned.

Officials of Metrobank, a subsidiary of Allied Bank, said their armoured vehicle was transferring cash from Zamboanga to Calapan when armed men held it up. The armed men shot Regilio Canlas, Jose Karingal and clerk Peter Lubes who were all in the vehicle.

Bank authorities in the Calapan branch called the Allied Bank head office in Makati by radio for the wounded to be airlifted to Manila for treatment.

The Allied officials, however, replied that they still had to get the permission of the Presidential Commission on Good Government on the use of a plane for the airlift.

Later yesterday, the Calapan branch officials reported that two of the wounded — the driver and the guard — died from loss of blood before they could be brought to Manila.

The bank said it lost about P300,000 to the robbers.

Laguna sex dens of Luneta stowaways: Four women and a suspected pimp were arrested by military authorities from Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna who swooped down the controversial "red-light district" along the National Highway in barangay Dita, Sta Rosa, Laguna.

Lawmen under Col Nestorio B. Gualberto of the PC-CIS 4th District Command, raided the Big "J" Restaurant, a supposed sex den, and collared three suspected prostitutes, a cashier, and an alleged pimp, Nome Valencia, 30, a brother of restaurant owner Noel Valencia.

Nabbed were suspected prostitutes Gigi Gamboa, 19, of Cabangalan, Negros Occidental; Alma Espinola, 20, of Dasmariñas City; and Cristina Alonzo 19, of 1522 Paz St. Paco, Manila. Jenny Ronquillo, 20, of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, cashier of Big "J" Restaurant, was also arrested after some of the CIS raiders, posed as customers and handed them marked money as payment for sexual services.

The alleged sex den has reportedly been responsible for recruiting young women at the Rizal Park by offering them good salaries as "receptionists" in Laguna.

"Kalimutan na naimbita nila upang magtrabaho sa Dita ay ang mga stowaway at mga stowaway at mga nagwawala sa Luneta, at kung minsan ay mga ignorante," sources told People's Journal.

Sta Rosa, Laguna Mayor Tito Gonzales has ordered the town's police force to implement the closure order on two establishments raided by the PC-CIS earlier: Best One House and Best Four House disco pubs, where some 25 alleged prostitutes were rounded up.

Disease now ground for legal separation: Affliction of a transmittable disease is now a ground for legal separation, member of a judicial and bar council of the Supreme Court said.

Lawyer Ofelia Santos speaking in the second workshop conference of the Metropolitan Court Judges Association of the Philippines, said that transmittable diseases like AIDS are now a basis for annulment of marriage.

She added that whether the disease is concealed or not, the marriage can still be void.

Santos also cited several new grounds for voiding marriage like fraud, concealment of affliction, insanity and undue influence.

Labourer found dead in well: A labourer who disappeared Sept 11 was found dead in a deep well in Barangay Bagong Buhay, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Police identified him as Armando Terasol, of Barangay Bagong Buhay. They said his body was already decomposing.

Terasol's brother, Eduardo, 30, of San Juan, told investigators the victim failed to return home.

Several men were last seen with the victims, Eduardo told Capt Angelito Pacia.

Also in Bulacan, a farmer and a labourer committed suicide for unknown reasons in their houses.

Police said farmer Gaspar de Guzman, 41, of Barangay Buisan, Bustos, shot himself in the right temple and died on the way to the hospital.

The labourer, German Miranda, 35, of Barangay Concepcion, Baliuag, died instantly from a stab wound in the left chest, police said.

Drunk cook drowns: A fishing boat cook who was apparently drunk fell into the sea and drowned in Novatas.

Drowned was Idelfonso Evangelista, 40, of Minala, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, said Novatas police chief Col Alberto Nepomuceno.

Witnesses told police that they saw Evangelista drinking liquor in the upper deck of F/B Tagiman.

"Hinayam namin siyang mar-ta dahil mas gusto naming uminom ng alak," one of the witnesses said.

They said Evangelista might have accidentally slipped and fell into the water.

"Hindi na siya nakita noong balik namin para arating maghahanap na ng hapunan," a witness said.

Three hours later, the bloated body of Evangelista was found. Police are still investigating the case.

Tricycle owner robbed: A tricycle owner was robbed, stripped naked and handcuffed to a tree by two unidentified armed men in Barangay Engkanto, Angat, Bulacan.

Police said Charito del Rosario, 24, of Barangay Pulang-Yantok Angat, freed himself by breaking the branch of the tree.

Baby boom: The booby trap of the nineties

By Art Dialogo

THIRTY or so years ago, a Filipino family of ten (with hardly a breather in-between the children's birthdays) could live decently with only the father to bring home the bacon.

At present, when high and higher technologies make living more convenient and creature comforts can be had with a simple push of a button, a family of four (with a breather between births of the eldest and the youngest longer than a quinquennium) is already considered very large. And despite the fact that both parents are breadwinners — a circumstance that keeps them away from the hearth most of the time — the family can hardly keep the quality of life within decent bounds.

Such was such and so is so because, first of all, the value of the peso has shrunk disproportionately with the cost of living. A family living in the urban and suburban area needs at least P150 a day to keep their bodies and souls together, maintain a house of their own, and send the children to school. A family that earns less than the basic minimum wage must survive below the poverty line, which means that they eat less, which means that they eat less than thrice a day. Definitely not enough to produce bright and healthy children. Which means that they might not come to reach that someday when, bitten by the nostalgic bug, they have to dig up and read these lines to recall their forefathers' days.

The resources that used to glut the island republic are gradually being consumed to nil due to the leaders' inattention and lack of foresight and the people's indifference. But, most of all, life in the 1990s and

beyond becomes less and less worth looking forward to when the constant and rapid increase in the country's population — or the world's for that matter — is dragged into the picture. The statistics of concern have become the statistics of ruin. That's why if the insurgency (both in the country and within the military) was the government's major problem in the 1980s, the runaway population, which determines in great part the nation's future and which would require more than synergistic effort to control or cut down, is this decade's most urgent problem.

Down to brass tacks

The estimated 660,000-odd early inhabitants of the archipelago in the 16th century may not probably have heard of the divine phrase "Go and multiply"; nevertheless, these bunch of Malayo-Polynesian islanders went on to grow in number by leaps and bounds, the bloodstream diluted with races from west and south of the globe. And in the light of the Filipinos' complete Christianization by the Spaniards (those in Mindanao excluded), the only Christian nation in the region has multiplied its population a hundredfold.

Statistics show that the Philippines at present ranks as the 17th most populous country in the world and one of the most populated in Asia, where half of the world's 4.5 billion people live. At a growth rate of 2.4 per cent a year (some say it is 2.5, others insist it is 2.7) and a population of some 60 million, the country is expected to house and nurture some 1.5 million more Filipinos a year. Consider this: three Filipino babies are born every minute, 157 every hour, 3,781 a day, 1.5 million a year, and if the rate goes on unabated, the projection that 100 million Filipinos would crowd the country before the decade ends is a possibility that boggles the mind and weakens the knee.

Of the 157 Filipino babies born every hour, four to five are born poor and malnourished. According to reports, more than half of the population lives way below the poverty threshold, if not in absolute poverty.



The Philippines was even asked to join the so-called Seven Poorest Nations; yet, it is unlike Mozambique where tens of thousands of babies are starving to death everyday. Like most debt-ridden and developing countries in the Third World, the Philippines is threatened with a future shaped by the deadly hands of population growth: shortage of food and jobs, illnesses, violence, to mention some.

But to quote the late Rafael Salas, then executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the organizer of the 1984 International Conference on Population held in the overpopulated Mexico City, "There is room for concern, but not panic."

It was reported that 85 undercapitalized and undernourished countries, which accommodate nearly all the Third World population, have supported in one form or another, though some are inadequate, family planning programs and birth control systems. The notable drop in the annual growth rate of the world's population during the previous decade was attributed to this. But the bell rings both ways. It triggered "overconfidence" that consequently led to lesser efforts in dealing with the problem. Population, thus, continues to alarm the world.

The Pinoy Pill

If China was able to cut its fertility rate by half with its one-child-family population policy, a programme that includes financial rewards and penalties, then why can't the Philippines? If Thailand has made headway in controlling population growth with determined efforts in extending family planning to its more than 4,000 village health centers, then why can't the Philippines?

The Philippines, actually, was able to cut the growth rate by 7 per cent after it launched a population control programme in 1969, when there were more or less 35 million Filipinos and the growth rate was a high 3.1 per cent. To achieve "a population level that is most conducive to national welfare," a provision embodied in the 1973 Constitution, family planning centers were put in areas where they were needed most. The Population Commission was formed and became the contraceptive pill of the government to check and maintain the ideal growth rate.

Success was evident at the outset with the full participation of various public and private entities. The multisectoral project also received the support of international funding agencies. It was bolstered by a massive information dissemination to drive home the point that fertility reduction is related to development and improved quality of life. But life for the Filipinos is not only dictated upon by political and economic factors. The Roman Catholic Church, which opposes birth-control techniques other than the natural and to which majority of the population belongs, is also a powerful factor that has also pushed a number of people into the gates of dilemma.

Back to the future

For most Filipino families, the choice is between a good life in this world and a life eternal in the world to come. Although there were a number of those that would never allow themselves to end in such straits, a greater number of people — the poor and the uneducated — that are lulled by the papal bull on artificial birth control also exist.

The debate, therefore, is between pro-life and pro-choice. And while the argument is going on, population

continues to pose peril to the people. This is made more perilous with the government's lack of a clear national population policy. For one, the family planning provision was deleted in the 1987 Constitution. For another, it was replaced with one that is as vague as the Church's stand. As a result, foreign funding agencies withdrew support. Budget for the population agencies was cut down. It was only in 1988 when the government finally issued its "responsible parenthood" policy that puts emphasis on "improving the Filipino's individual quality of life." Nonetheless, with a lack of actual implementation guidelines and the Church's strong anti-family planning posture, the situation remains the same.

Standing room only

It appears that, for Jaime Cardinal Sin and his booster shots, population is not in any other way connected with a number of problems plaguing the country at present. Along with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the archbishop and his so-called family life workers are seemingly determined to fight what he calls "contraceptive imperialism." The Church has been very much involved in family development, Sin declared. And so it is family welfare, not family planning. The Pinoy pill, in short, will not cure the Pinoy problem.

The diocese of Manila, said to be the largest in the whole Catholic world, is figured to emerge as a megacity before the turn of the century. Which means that the population would hit the 10 million mark.

At present, Metro Manila has a population of around eight million, which is constantly swelling with the inflow of migrants from the countryside and nearby islands. At a rate of 25 births per 1,000 people, it appears that the year of the megacity is just around the crowded corner.

If it is not the main cause, runaway population then is a factor that has contributed to mass poverty, joblessness, shortage of transportation, environmental devastation, and other symptoms of the so-called cancerous urban growth. In detail, 48,750 families are squatters in their own land, 5,500 of whom are living in hovels built by the river banks. Nearly half of the city dwellers belong to the urban poor. More than half of the families have no access to garbage and sewage disposal system, have no toilet facilities to speak of. Some of the nation's more than 20 million homeless citizens are in Metro Manila, living their below-the-poverty-line lives in one-room dwellings with a water faucet they share with countless others.

Each city resident dumps at least 1.5 kilos of wastes a day, if not in the Smokey Mountain, into the rivers and the dying esteros. The vacant lots and available spaces on which the homeless have built their makeshift homes have also become seedbeds of outrage. Crime-ridden slums, at least 400 of them are in Metro Manila, have become the symbol of metropolitan blight.

The youth — hope of everyone — comprise nearly half of the city population, thousands of them are in the streets, begging, sniffing glue, wandering, prostituting, out of school and undernourished.

It is not that the government is not doing anything to remedy the situation. The legislature has filed bills in support of the national population policy. Housing projects, relocation of the urban poor, increased health facilities, and so on, have been part of the government's effort to curb the problem, to turn the nightmare into the realization of a dream.

The missionaries of the upland development

NOT many people know that 18 million Filipinos — comprising the country's "poorest of the poor" — live in the uplands today, eking out a marginal existence from what they could grow or pluck out from the soil. Of these 18 million, eight million are occupying areas within the forestlands, mostly landless farmers who depend on the soil for their daily subsistence.

Forced by the instinct to survive, these forest occupants have mindlessly slashed and burned the forests to clear out small patches of farmlands to plant crops for food. Others indiscriminately cut down the trees for firewood — or to convert them into charcoal to sell in the lowlands.

Compounded by the utter greed of unscrupulous loggers and the government's apathy to the real danger of environmental disaster during the past decades, this senseless washing of the natural resources has threatened to transform the country into a vast wasteland within our lifetime.

Together, they all constitute the strongest pressure on our remaining forest lands, according to Environmental and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Field Operations Victor O. Ramos.

It is interesting to note that over the past decades, the buck kept being passed around in so far as the protection of the environment — especially deforestation — was concerned. Environmental and Natural Resources Secretary Jun Factoran has stopped the buckpassing, in a determined move to save what is left of our forests.

The vehicle for conservation is the Integrated Forestry Programme which was launched by the DENR last year, that seeks to reverse the tide of deforestation by enlisting the active participation of the migrant forest dwellers in the upland development efforts for the government.

Secretary Factoran tasked Undersecretary Ramos to head the DENR Upland Development Group that oversees the operation of the Integrated Forestry Programme.

The upland situation today is plagued with many problems, all of them serious, says Undersecretary Ramos. He cited land degradation, ballooning population, deepening poverty, and land tenure for the rural poor.

He pointed out that as of 1988, of the upland population of 18 million, roughly 70 per cent are landless farmers who depend on the soil for daily subsistence. The real threat stems from the fact that at the annual population growth rate of 2.5 per cent,

the upland population could swell to 27 million by the year 2000. That could aggravate the socio-economic pressure on the country's rural poor.

The eight million people living within the forest lands pose a continuing potent threat to our forests, mainly because of their nefarious practice of slash-and-burn farming (kaingin) to produce their food and fuel needs.

Undersecretary Ramos laments the unceasing practice of kaingin farming in the uplands, stressing the need to conserve and preserve our upland resources because the upland areas are highly sensitive to soil erosion and degradation.

The socio-economic conditions of the people living in the uplands are lamentably way below acceptable standards. An economic survey shows farmers realise only an annual income of between P800 and P3,000. And, they are a total stranger to such basic services as health, education, and livelihood. Under the circumstance, they have no alternative but to depend on the soil for survival.

The DENR has acted to "correct" the situation — through the integrated social forestry programme. Under the programme, the upland dweller is awarded a Certificate of Stewardship Contract which entitles him to cultivate a designated piece of land for 25 years. This is renewable for another 25 years, making him a virtual owner of the land.

The integrated Social Forestry Programme recognises the need and the right of the kaingineros not only to the land they till, but also to life, sustenance, and access to a valuable natural resource — in this case, the forest, said Secretary Factoran.

He explained that, as a people-oriented program, ISFP calls for the establishment of social forestry projects in designated areas, such as within public forest lands that are actually occupied and cultivated by forest occupants as of December 31, 1981; and in open, denuded areas suited for the development of agro-forestry farms by programme participants through the adoption of feasible agro-forestry technologies.

The ISFP has so far established 803 social forestry projects nationwide, benefitting 151,300 participants and the issuance of 94,363 Certificates of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs) and 10 Community Forest Stewardship Agreements (CFSAs) covering an area totalling 450,673 hectares.

Secretary Factoran noted that the country is entering a new era of social forestry, from the bygone years of industrial forestry. Necessarily, the DENR is presently concentrating its attention on the upland development of the uplands, through the integrated social forestry programme. The programme received an encouraging boost from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its grant of P2 million to fund the upland development programme.

Undersecretary Ramos echoes the view of Secretary Factoran that in the need to focus on sustainable development, the uplands should lead the priority list. "Massive and dedicated action must be done now or else the momentum and growth of the problem will be such that it be beyond even our strengthened capabilities," he said.

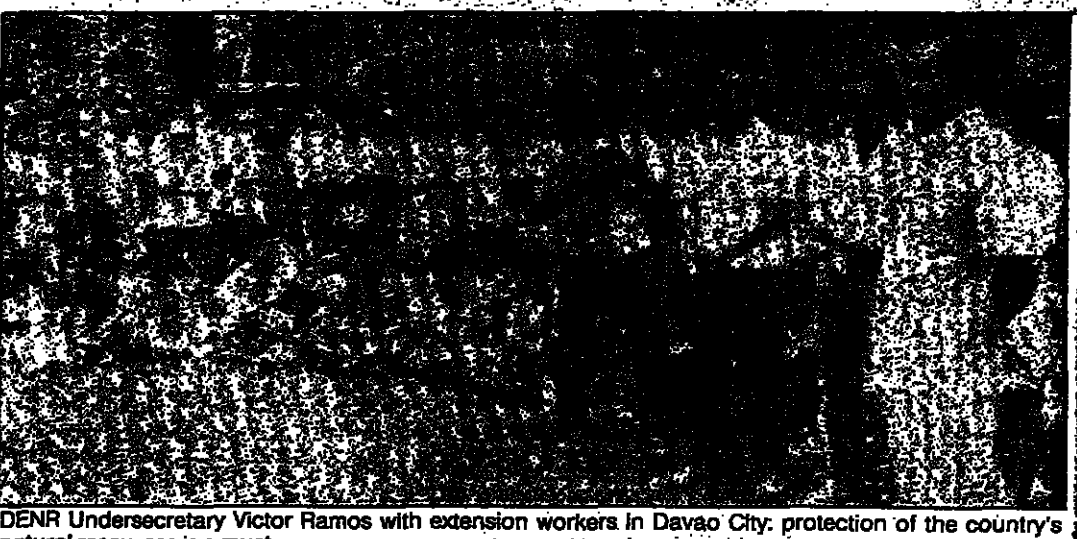
He laments, though, that the DENR has only 1,004 extension workers to pursue the programme. While this is adequate, Undersecretary Ramos said, the DENR is addressing the problem two ways. Firstly, he said, the DENR is now training an additional 1,400 social forestry officers with speciality in extension work, community organising and human relations. They shall form the core of "missionaries" in upland development.

A corollary move is the recruitment by the DENR of the services of non-government organisations (NGOs) and upland farmer-leaders to fill the gap.

"The effort of training and recruitment should be done now in the hope that such efforts can have a snowballing effect that is at least equal to, or faster, than the combined increase in upland population and their needs for sustainable development," Ramos said.

In a related development, an ideology of conservation is being evolved among project implementers, participants, and officials that emphasizes the axiom of living with, learning from, and sharing in each other's knowledge, capability, and resources.

Undersecretary Ramos asserts that the immediate task of the DENR is how to win the trust of upland dwellers who have long been neglected by the government. "The urgent task is to eradicate their cynicism through teams of reoriented social foresters who are trained to empathise with our rural folk," Ramos said, adding that the new scope of forestry transcends the traditional forestry training.



DENR Undersecretary Victor Ramos with extension workers in Davao City: protection of the country's natural resources is a must.

Embassy corner

Newsbits and reminders

On overseas nurses

THE US Congress has passed the Immigration Nursing Relief Bill, which will make it easier for registered nurses, including Filipinos, to work in over 700 US hospitals where there is a shortage of 137,000 nurses. At least 7 per cent of all professional nurses who enter the US on H-1 non-immigrant visas are foreigners, 75 per cent of which comes from the Philippines. The bill provides for registered nurses to adjust their status to permanent resident.

On employers of run-away maids

The Philippine Embassy requests all employers of run-away Filipino maids, especially employers who are leaving Kuwait for good, to please cancel immediately the residence visas in the passports of their maids, and surrender the passports to the Philippine Embassy, for cancellation of the passport and transmittal to Manila. This will greatly help in easing the liability of the employers who hold on to the passports of their maids, even if the maid has run away and the employer himself is leaving.

And if the maid ran away while vacationing abroad with their employers, please report immediately to the nearest Philippine Consulate or Embassy in the place where the maid ran away, or report the matter to the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait as soon after returning as possible, so that the authorities in Manila may be properly notified.

On the proposed Philippine school in Kuwait

As of this writing, only ten (10) respondents have submitted their replies to the survey being conducted by the Philippine Embassy on the number of families interested to have the Philippine school. The survey forms are available either at the Embassy or at the Mabuhay Restaurant, and the deadline for submitting to Consul-General Palala is the close of office hours on Wednesday, January 31, 1990.

Reminder to file income tax returns for the year 1989

Again, another year has come upon us, and again we would like to start the year right by reminding one and all to please pay their income taxes on time, to avoid the penalty and additional charges in the amount of K03,250 per year.

Although the deadline for paying is still on April 15, 1990, we would like to remind everyone of their obligation to pay the tax before the deadline, to avoid the rush and overcrowding.

If many Filipino contract workers are working in just one company or office, please contact Asumas or Gimbomals of the Embassy to arrange for one day servicing at your place of work, on the day most convenient to you. The earlier you make the arrangement, the better for everyone as while there is no rush yet, the Embassy can accommodate your individual requests. But if everybody decides to invite the Embassy at the last minute, then there will have to be some whose invitations will have to be turned down.

So avoid the rush — file your income tax now!

Guidelines in applying for driving licence in the Philippines:

For professional driving licence:
— Applicant must be at least 18 years old;
— Applicant must be physically and mentally fit to operate motor vehicles;
— Applicant must not possess any contagious diseases, be a drug addict or an alcoholic; and
— Applicant must be able to read and write Filipino and/or English.

Documents required:
— Valid student driver's permit (original) at least five months old or valid non-professional driver's licence (original) at least four months old;
— medical certificate duly signed by an LTO-accredited physician or issued by a hospital;
— Police/NBI/Fiscal's Clearance from place of residence; and
— duly-accomplished application for driver's licence (ADL) Form.

For non-professional driving licence:
— Applicant must be at least 17 years old;
— Applicant must be physically and mentally fit to operate motor vehicles; and
— Applicant must be able to read and write Filipino and/or English.

Documents required:
— Valid student driver's permit at least one month old;
— medical certificate duly signed by an LTO-accredited physician or issued by a hospital;
— applicant must pass the written and actual driving tests; and
— duly-accomplished application for driver's licence (ADL) Form.

To showbiz or not to showbiz

AT the time this is being written, the three stars of "Last Two Minutes" are in Hong Kong enjoying a different kind of New Year. (We are told even cameo role player, Benjie Paras, has been accorded the same privilege by Mother Lily.) The trip is part of the bonus given by movie mogul Mother Lily due to the huge success that the movie was at the box office during the holidays.

Sure, "Last Two Minutes" didn't win any award in the film-fest. But who cares? It had no intentions of being artsy, or of going high brow. It was a fun movie, plain and simple. And with the public mania for basketball, practically the whole country came out (and will come out) to see cage heart throbs Alvin Patrimonio, Bong Alvarez and Jerry Codinera emoting on a screen that is indeed bigger than life!

But then from the more disciplined and sober sports circle comes the question: Is it right for athletes in general, and professional basketball players in particular, to enter showbiz?

Actually, Virginia, there are two schools of thought. Let's start with the "purist" or shall we say, the "what should be" school of thought. This one says: No. Athletes—serious athletes especially—should not enter showbiz. To make it more to the point: Showbiz has no place in a serious athlete's life.

Why? Because sports and showbiz are like oil and water. They don't mix. Sports requires of its adherents total dedication. Discipline. Early bedtimes. No drinks. No smokes. No wild party habits.

Sports has a spiritual side to it. The Shaolin warriors and Kung Fu fighters didn't get to be that graceful, fast or dangerous without the hard work, the tortuous discipline, the mental and spiritual preparation that precedes performance.

Sports requires of its adherents a special outlook even. Such that the food one eats, the company one keeps, the activities one indulges in—even the recreation one does—should not get in the way of, or be detrimental to, the effective play-

ing of one's game. Sports is selfless. It is to a certain extent, self-denial, in order to achieve the greater glory of the game, one's team, one's country, and ultimately, one's higher self.

Showbiz, on the other hand, even if it requires the same serious dedication and concentration as sports does to elevate it to the level of art, is relatively more carefree, frivolous, and plays on personal vanities.

"Showbiz for fun" is even more frivolous, even more carefree, and just as vain. The company that showbiz keeps is glitz and illusion. It thrives on flattery, intrigue, gossip and pizzazz.

Because of its nature showbiz precludes that its adherents cultivate a healthy amount of self love, keep late nights, irregular schedules, and self-indulgent habits. Over and above this, shooting schedules, taping schedules, dubbing schedules and personal appearances to promote movies take a lot of time away from practice, actual games and the all-important rest that players need. To get into the mood sometimes, performers smoke a lot or take tons of coffee. Some even go the way of higher stimulants to squeeze out the creative juices that need to flow.

Don't get us wrong. We're not saying everybody in showbiz needs this kind of little help from their friends in order to deliver. Or that the new initiates to showbiz have to tread this psychedelic track to qualify.

What we're saying is that the sports and showbiz milieus differ quite widely. Sports is spartan in its approach. Showbiz track to qualify.

What we're saying is that the sports and showbiz milieus differ quite widely. Sports is spartan in its approach. Showbiz is bohemian in its outlook.

If we are going to be strict about things, to be an outstanding sportsman, one must concentrate fully on the sport and keep other distractions away from his mind. If there is showbiz in his blood, an athlete must forget it or at least postpone treating that path until much later when his sport career is done. One cannot serve two masters. One must establish one's priorities.



The movie debut of Alvin Patrimonio, Jerry Codinera and Paul Alvarez' 'Last Two Minutes' turned out to be a big hit.

But what about the more practical viewpoint? It says: Showbiz and sports can mix, why not?

There are, of course, qualifications. Like in the case of "Last Two Minutes", shooting was done around the free times of the players involved. It was the movie people who adjusted to the players' schedules, for example. And much of the work done on the film was done during the off-season.

Besides, another practical consideration is: "Kung hindi ngayon, kailan?" Will Mother Lily ask you to make a movie when you're old and grey? You're only young once. And one can never tell when one will be as big a hit as one is during a particular time. Popularity too may fade, and one must catch the instant while it is there.

The reason the three players were approached to make a movie was because they are currently the biggest sensations of local cinema. Once their popularity dips, what good are they in the movies? We must remember that the film medium—especially in the Philippines—

is after one big thing mainly: making it big in the box office. And then again there is the matter of a very practical concern: Big Bucks. The movies offer much in terms of monetary rewards. Besides the talent fees, there are bonuses and gifts and other incentives. What better way is there to make so much money in so short a time in such a fun way than to make movies? Plus there are lovely co-stars to sweeten the package to match.

Besides—this generation of cage stars seem naturally cut out for fields other than the playing arena. Many of them are good-looking, with matinee idol looks, hunky bobs and a charisma found only in Tinseltown material. Let's put it this way: It will be hard for today's cagers to resist Showbiz' lure.

Unless one decides he is going to be 100 per cent an athlete, of course. This means mixing the temptations, the practical rewards, the lure of Big Bucks, the excitement of glamour and stardom in another field.

For sure a serious athlete with the fervor and zeal of an Olympian will not have a hard time refusing the prospect of more gold more fame, and more shrieks from another kind of public.

But we are talking of the ideal here. Maybe our athletes are not yet mature enough, nor dedicated enough to want to embrace sports alone and not find a mistress in showbiz.

Maybe too, the showbiz they have entered into is just a one-shot deal, a temporary arrangement merely to test the waters—a fun way to take advantage of one's fame and enhance one's value further.

Still there are others who say players who enter showbiz are cheating themselves, or lowering their standards. Team owners, for one, are not very happy about the deal.

Who knows, as my Pa-ly, Tony Lu, is wont to say: "Yangging, talagang hindi nawala sa tao." I say: If I had a choice, I'd prefer it if our athletes did not have to go into showbiz because somehow it might affect their game.

From the provinces

BANGUED, Abra: Rep. Rudolfo Bernardez of this province has asked his constituents to support the passage of the Organic Act for the Cordillera Autonomous Region which would bring economic benefits and enhance the growth and development of the region.

Bernardez made the statement as he urged his people to vote "yes" for the forthcoming plebiscite scheduled next year, saying this would redound to the advantage of the five provinces and one city in the area.

He said that once the Organic Act of the Cordillera Autonomous Region be ratified by the people, it would prop up enormous change and development in the area considering the amount of P1.5 billion yearly—several times the amount of the national government for the next five years, enough to promote the economic advancement in the area, Bernardez said.

This Organic Act, Bernardez added, would serve as the blue-print of development as it bolsters the economic well-being of the people both in the advancement of trade and industry and for the employment of the people.

Meanwhile, Bernardez lauded the military in his province headed by Lt Col Eduardo Calderon, Abra provincial commander, for liberating four remote towns in the province which had been under NPA-control during the past few months.

Among the four towns liberated by the military are: Mahibong, Ting, Lacub and Licuan all located near the boundary of Kalinga, Apayao and Abra provinces.

MANILA: Unlike its reported cancer-causing counterparts saccharin and cyclamate, the sweetener "aspartame" has the approval of various health authorities world-wide as it has repeatedly passed laboratory tests and has been proven safe for the body, it was reported.

This low-calorie, non-nutritive sweetener is now commonly used in diabetic meal plans and is better known as "Equal" or "NutraSweet."

In an article published by Dr David Horwitz and Jeanine Bauer-Nehring and entitled "Can Aspartame Meet Our Expectations?" attributes of this white, odorless substance were discussed.

According to Horwitz and Nehring, aspartame as well as smaller amount of methanol which are used and excreted by the body in the same way as when they are obtained from ordinary foods.

OLONGAPO CITY: The councils of the four towns of the first congressional district of Zamboanga—Subic, Castillejos, San Marcelino, and San Antonio—passed resolutions, praising and thanking Lt Col MacArthur Torres, Metropolitan District Command (Metrodiscom) chief, for maintaining peace and order during the Dec 1 coup attempt.

The resolutions said during those days, Torres, his officers, and men checked various towns and barrios, assuring the people that "the situation is normal, and there's nothing to fear."

They said such assurance gave them peace of mind. They added that Torres checked the prices of prime goods.

QUEZON: Brig Gen. Alejandro Galido, Southern Luzon Command chief, has ordered P4 and Army units in Mt Banahaw, particularly Task Force Hunter under Col Miguel Fontanilla, to block the escape of 200 New People's Army rebels who raided the Sampaloc, Quezon, police station.

Galido, who went under knife in the gall bladder last Dec 14, has returned to his job. He said the rebels wounded five policemen and fled with 22 guns. He commended his officers and men for their loyalty to President Aquino.

MANILA: A town mayor and seven members of his family were charged recently by a small-town lottery operator with allegedly extorting P1.9 million from him in violation of the anti-graft law.

The complainant complained to the Ombudsman the mayor demanded cash under certain terms and conditions in exchange for being allowed to operate the small-town lottery in the province.

Through lawyer Bonifacio A. Alentajan, the complainant said a total of P1,938,774.67 was collected from him on various occasions from April 9 to Dec 10, 1989.

MANILA: The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has awarded Lt Col Romeo Maganto, Metropolitan Police Field Force, the Integrated National Police (INP) Special Service Medal for gallantry during the Dec 1 coup attempt.

Earlier, Maj Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP chief, had given Maganto the INP Wounded Personnel Medal.

Cicero Campos, Napolcom chairman, conferred the "rajah" degree on Maganto "for having demonstrated conspicuous gallantry and having been wounded in action in leading selected members of the Metropolitan Police Field Force (MPFF) in the control of the Makati financial district and actively assisting to overcome the aborted coup."

MAKATI: Lt Col Remy Macaspac assumed his new post as Makati police chief, replacing Col Aquilino Jacob, who was named Southern Police District (SPD) superintendent by Brig Gen Alexander Aguirre, Capital Regional Command chief and Metropolitan Police Force director.

Macaspac, with a law degree from the University of the East, was the station's investigation division chief since 1986. As a lawyer, he acted as pre-trial prosecutor in court-martial proceedings involving policemen.

Macaspac rose from the ranks of a patrolman and has received many awards and commendations. He was one of the 1989 Ten Outstanding Policemen of the year.

He vowed to continue the drive against crime, drug abuse, and insurgency.

MANILA: House Minority Floor Leader Ali Dimaporo urged the government to stop its policy depriving Muslims of their birthright to band together to defend themselves in the absence of government protection.

He assailed reports tagging him one of the heads of 102 private armies which prompted the House committee on constitutional amendments to move for an investigation.

"What the military listed as 200 men armed with 400 guns under my alleged command is an illusion, the product of a fertile but destructive imagination," Dimaporo said. He said those who made the report "must have mistaken me for one of the commanders of a private army in Luzon."

MANILA: Licensed dealers of two-way radio and other communication equipment will be required next week to submit regularly an inventory of stocks and sale, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) said yesterday.

Acting NTC officer-in-charge Florentino Ampil said the dealers' reports will be compiled and fed into a computer for systematic, flawless, and updated recording system.

Ampil, NTC deputy commissioner for operations, said the approach will help end the illegal operations of fly-by-night radio dealers and suppliers in Metro Manila.

He said he will recommend to NTC Chairman Josefine Lichayco the creation of an NTC-military-police task force to check stores belonging to unscrupulous radio dealers.

CAVITE CITY: Lawyer Leonardo A. Jose of this city, one of the 310 customs employees ordered reinstated by the Supreme Court, filed here last Wednesday a P1.5-million damage suit against Customs Commissioner Salvador M. Mison for actual, moral, and exemplary damages as a result of his illegal dismissal.

Docketed as civil case No. N-5302 at the regional trial court's fourth judicial region here, Jose assailed Mison for creating vacancies at the Bureau of Customs when he (Jose) and other employees were dismissed last year.

The court directed Mison to answer the complaint within 15 days upon receiving it. The summons was delivered to the sheriff of Manila who served it on Mison at his customs office last Wednesday.

As a result, power failure hit Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato, and South Cotabato, and the cities of Cotabato and General Santos.

Jose said his case is the first damage suit filed against Mison.

PARANQUE: A man was arrested by the Paranaque police for allegedly vandalizing the tomb of former senator Benigno Aquino Jr. at the Manila Memorial Park on Sucat Road.

Police identified the suspect as Arnel Ballesteros, 27. Security guard Freddie Ibanez nabbed Ballesteros while destroying the plants around the tomb of Aquino.

Ballesteros is now under the custody of the Paranaque police, pending the determination of his mental health. If found fit, Ballesteros will be charged, police said.

Ballesteros said he destroyed the plants around the tomb "because I didn't like their square arrangement. He added he destroyed a bulb over the tomb "because the tomb should be exposed."

MANILA: Rep. Samuel M. Dangwa (Benguet) predicted that the people in his district will reject the organic act for the creation of the Cordillera Autonomous Region in the forthcoming plebiscite on the measure.

"I believe that the people of my province will overwhelmingly vote 'no' to the proposed Cordillera autonomous region because they fully realize that its approval will slow down instead of speeding up the development of the province," Dangwa said.

"The autonomy would result in too much bureaucracy and red tape," he said. Dangwa said that it would be better for his province to wait for the implementation of the Local Government Code which provides that benefits will be directly channeled to the provinces.

Dangwa expressed doubt over the approval of the act because of two other reasons: Administrative cost would high because of so many officials and personnel and it would spawn divisiveness among the non-tribal groups such as the Ilocanos, Tagalogs, and Pangasinenses who would feel that they are discriminated upon.

PASAY CITY: Some P500,000 worth of property went up in smoke yesterday afternoon when a fire of undetermined origin destroyed a residential area in this city.

No one was reported injured during the one-hour fire.

An investigation showed that about 1:45pm yesterday, a thick smoke was seen coming out of the house occupied by a certain Rene and located inside the Maximino Tolentino compound at 570 Segundo St., Pasay City.

Maximino Alcantara, 58, a resident in the compound, said that the occupants were out of the house when the fire broke out.

Pfc Bill Canedo, officer-on-duty, said that the fire razed nine houses. It was placed under control at about 2:45 pm.

PARANQUE: At least three persons were hurt in a P5-million fire that destroyed 70 houses Paranaque.

Col Oscar Pascual, Southern Police District Fire superintendent, identified those injured as Alberto de Leon, 57, Sgt. Jacob Valenzuela, Sucat, Paranaque sub-station fire commander; and Capt. Edgardo Vicente, Paranaque fire station commander.

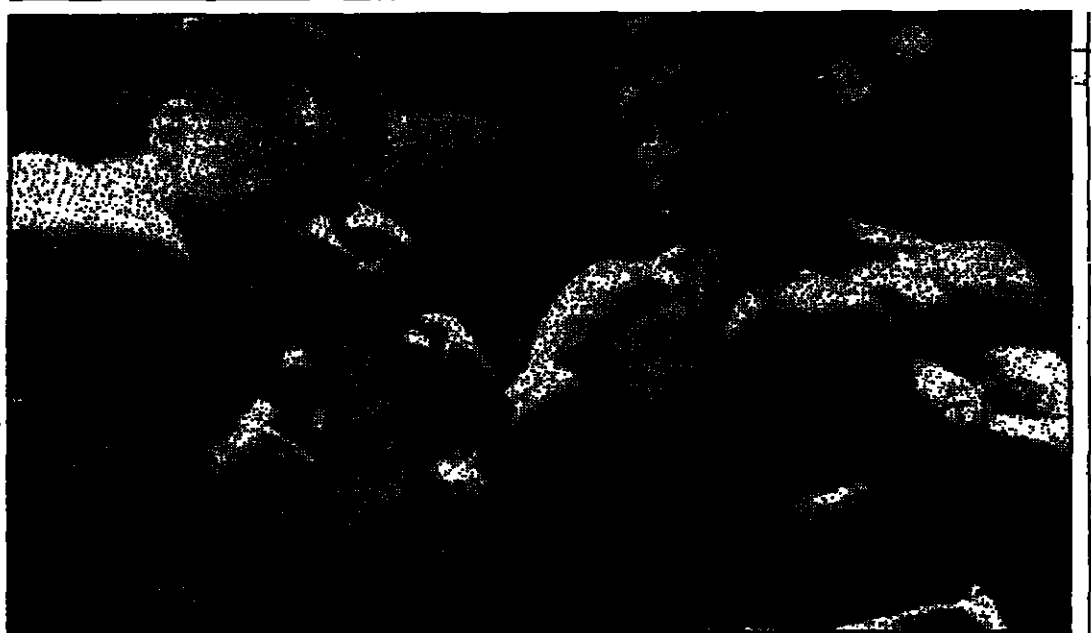
Pascual said the fire razed 70 houses on First, Second, and Third streets in Barangay Sto. Nino, Paranaque. Police suspected the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring.

Police said the fire started in the house of Virgilio Magtatas, 51, of 4119 Bid St., barangay Sto. Nino, Paranaque. Lack of fire hydrants worsened the situation.

GENERAL SANTOS CITY: Suspected separatist rebels destroyed the Kibabaw-Tacurong power transmission tower in Buluan, Maguindanao, causing a blackout in four provinces and four cities in Mindanao.

Solomon Munasque, National Power Corp. (Napcor) spokesman for southwestern Mindanao, said that lawless elements saved off the base of transmission tower No. 48 in barangay Kayaga, Buluan, Maguindanao at about 2am yesterday.

As a result, power failure hit Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato, and South Cotabato, and the cities of Cotabato and General Santos.



Khaosai Galaxy (right, flailing away Kenji Matsumura) may be Cobra Victory Blanca's next face.

Blanca shoots for Galaxy

WILFREDO BLANCA used to be known as Boy. He later changed his ring name to Cobra Ari. Now, Blanca is called Cobra Victory. Whatever his handle, the Philippine junior bantamweight boxing champion is definitely world-class and on the verge of claiming a place in sports history.

Blanca, 27, is in line for a crack at the World Boxing Association (WBA) crown held by Thai Khaosai Galaxy. Los Angeles-based matchmaker Pol Tiglao is arranging a Galaxy defense against Blanca sometime in February next in Bangkok. Tiglao also set up the bout between Khaosai's brother Khaokor and Filipino challenger Luisito Espinosa for the WBA bantamweight throne last October. Espinosa halted Galaxy in the first round to capture the title.

According to Games and Amusements Board (GAB) boxing chief Attorney Eduardo Velasco, Blanca is set to stake his Philippine diadem against top-ranked contender Rey Paciones on Jan 20 but the match will be cancelled if Tiglao finalizes the Galaxy defense. Velasco said the GAB will give way to Blanca's WBA title crack in the event the Galaxy fight materializes.

Blanca, a Masbate native managed by the colorful Ruben Ortiz, turned pro in July 1983, stopping Boy Cua in Manila. He has compiled a creditable 30-4-2 record, with 12 knockouts. Blanca has lost only to John Matieza, Ernie Cataluma, Espinosa, and Loremer Pontino. He was held to draw by Rolando Bohol and Virgilio Opeño.

In March 1985, Blanca stopped Cataluma to wrest the Philippine bantamweight crown but lost the title in his first defense to Cataluma on points in a rematch three months later. Early this year, he whipped Edler Geronimo to capture the Philippine title in the 115-pound division.

Last August, Blanca took a trip to Sapporo and outpointed Japanese trialhorse Jun Yonesaka. Galaxy, 30, won't be an easy nut to crack. The hard-hitting Thai has ruled the WBA junior bantamweight class since November 1984 when he knocked out Eusebio Espinal in Bangkok. He has racked up 12 successful defenses, turning back the likes of Rafael Orono, Edgar Monserrat, Israel Contreras, Elyas Pical, Chang Ho Choi, Alberto Castro and lately, Kenji Matsumura.

No doubt, Blanca won't find it smooth sailing to repulse a grizzled warrior like Galaxy. So far, the Thai has victimized four Filipino fighters, Ali

Formentera, Gil Ragas, Val de Vera and Jun Llano. But he nearly lost to de Vera in their 1984 bout. De Vera floored Galaxy who managed to beat a long count and bounced back to halt the Filipino in a sudden reversal of fortunes.

While Blanca chases Galaxy for a title shot, Bohol has set his own sights on the other champions in the World Boxing council and International Boxing Federation. The WBC king is Nana Konadu of Ghana while the IBF ruler is Venezuelan Juan Polo Perez.

Make no mistake about it, Grego Garcia's prospect Cris Saguid is destined for greatness. Saguid, 25, is taking on Raffy Panagan's boy Trican Panas soon for the Philippine featherweight title relinquished by newly-crowned Oriental king Jojo Cayson. The winner will put his championship on the line against third-ranked Voltaire Pacuyan.

Saguid raised not a few eyebrows when he posted back-to-back wins on foreign soil this year. First, he outpointed Thai Dornmai Sithkodom in Bangkok then defeated exoriantal champion Byung Soo Park in Seoul. The streak was snapped by world-rated Thai Bannan Torkacharn last June.

But since the Bangsan loss, Saguid has picked up three straight victories over Boy Masuay, Jun Arbas and Joe Hyias. His record is now 21-3-1, with 11 knockouts. His only setback were to Boy Arriola, Ramon Wasi and Bangsan.

Experts are predicting a bright fistic future for Saguid who is a flexible boxer-puncher with power in his mitts. If he takes the Philippine crown, Saguid may well be on the way to greater heights.

Unbeaten IBF mini-flyweight king Eric Chavez is shopping around for challengers. GAB boxing chief Attorney Eduardo Velasco said Chavez failed to stake his crown against Japanese Masaharu Kawakami last Dec 5 and the Indonesian promoters, who hold the option to his first defense, have relinquished the rights.

Chavez is awaiting bids from prospective challengers and may be pitted against Thailand's ex-WBC straw-weight king Nape Kiatwanchai early next year. Chavez, 27, has registered a 25-0-4 mark, with 10 knockouts. He has stopped his last five opponents.

Kiatwanchai recently yielded his WBC throne to South Korean Choi Chum Hwan on a 12th round knockout. Hwan was once the IBF junior flyweight champion.

Korina Sanchez

IN just five years, Korina Sanchez has transformed from being just another Masscom student into one of television's well-known personalities. This is indeed a great accomplishment for a woman who had no plans at all of becoming a newscaster or TV host when she was younger.

Being a standout in this field, Korina possesses the following qualities which are hard to find nowadays: brains, talent and charm. With these, she hosts the top-rating morning show, *Magandang Umaga Po*, in which she is also the executive producer. Of course, there's also her newscasting stint on *The World Tonight*.

In spite of these major fulfillments, Korina doesn't think of herself as more sort of superwoman even though she's truly one of television's female forces. "I think I have other potentials that haven't been discovered," reveals Korina. "Or, at least, they're still potentials and I still have to use them fully at the proper time. There are things that I still want to do that I haven't tried. It's not for lack of opportunity because the opportunities are always there knocking. It's just that I don't have the time and I don't feel it's the right time to do them."

Being in a world in which socialising is a must, Korina is not that outgoing as most people assume. As she herself admits, she's pretty much domesticated, often staying home during her leisure time writing letters, watching television and best of all, reading whatever she fancies.

How does Korina describe herself? "Overall? Well, I'm spiritual. I work hard. I'm not a stereotype. I'm not *de cajon*. I'm always searching for truths. Of course, I do have negative points that I really don't want to talk about," she says. "But I do have some strong points. These are the things that I would like to work on some more."

Korina reads the Bible and she's proud to say that most of the basic things she lives by are from the Bible. But there's a particular saying that Korina cooked up herself which makes a lot of sense: "If you don't give more than what you're getting, you will never ever get more." She explains, "A lot of people just give as much as they get. There's always this tooth-for-tooth, and eye-for-an-eye thing but generosity still is very rare. You see, giving and giving and giving will always have good results—tenfold even."

As a TV newscaster and host, Korina is extremely happy with what she's doing. "I wouldn't be doing this if I don't find meaning in it," Korina states. "And whenever I find meaning in what I'm doing, I'm happy. It's a responsibility. It means a lot to me. I think it's a path that God chose for me to trek. I don't even consider it work; that's why I give out so much of myself. It's not work at all. Not for me anyway."

In a business where being pressured all the time is common, Korina admits that she's the type who gets aggravated by people, but not easily. "We all are," she explains. "We're constantly in a pace where we learn to deal with other people. Especially me, I'm such a perfectionist. I try to perfect what I do as much as I can help it. So, I tend to expect the same from everybody else. Little by little, I'm mellowing. At twenty-five, I have mellowed mainly because of all the frustrations of having to deal with other people. In this job, dealing with others is the most difficult aspect. So, yes, I get aggravated but not as much as I used to. There's still room for growth, you know."

Focusing on womanhood, she talks about women who defy conservative norms such as single parenting, for example. Korina has a lot to say regarding this thing.

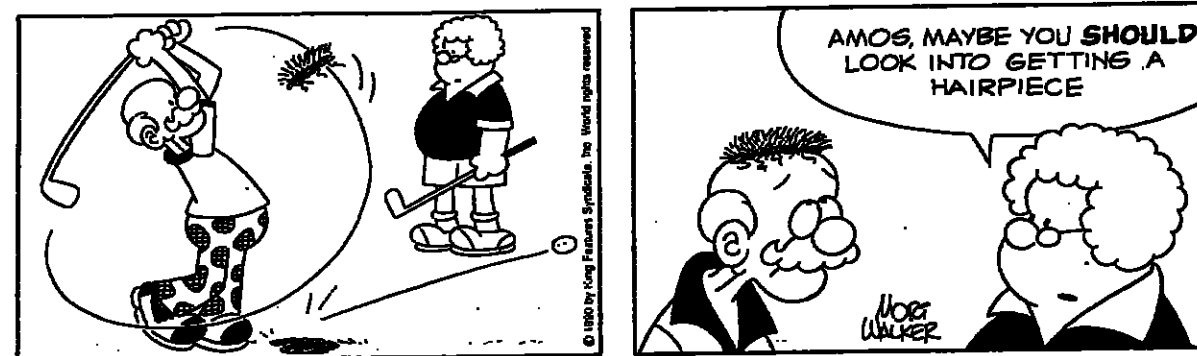
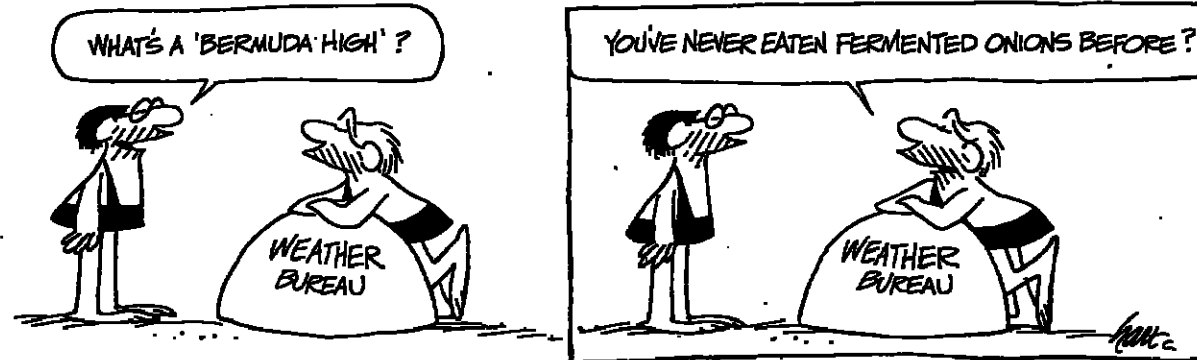
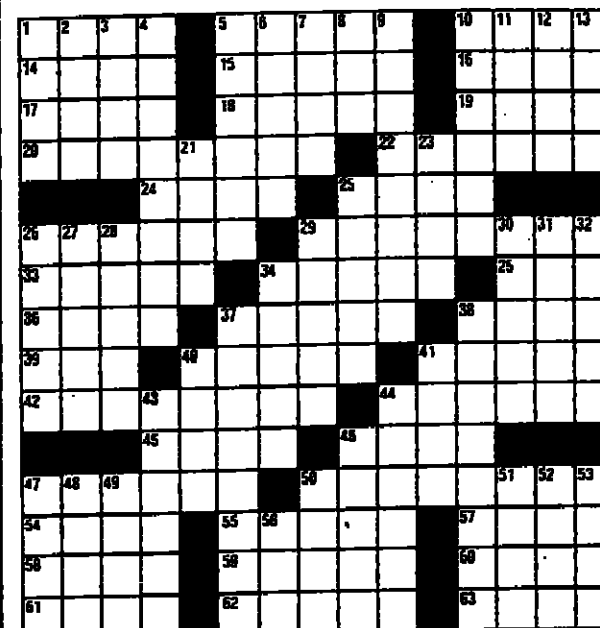
"I wouldn't really call that defiance," she stresses. "In a way, it is. But many times, these women find themselves in situations that they have treaded blindly. There are situations that are fruits of mistakes. These women did not intend to be in these spots. I guess it's just that they are careless. They become defensive about it so they justify it by calling themselves 'modern'. I myself don't believe in defying God-dictated institutions and norms. There will always be repercussions."

She thinks, however, that their situation is not something to judge these women by. "There are things that you simply cannot change. So, for these women, I can only give them sympathy and help or support."

When asked what she thinks is an ideal career woman, Korina makes it a point to define "woman" first. She quotes a poster she once saw: "A woman should always look like a girl, act like a lady, work like a dog think like a man. That is a woman." She adds, "even if you are a career woman, you should know your priorities. And if you have a family, I think it should be the number one priority. For career women who are single—like me, for instance—I think a career only comes up when you give a hundred per cent of yourself to it."

Being a career woman for Korina is all in the mind. A career, it's like you're working for yourself. "Honestly, I really don't work for myself," Korina emphasizes. "I work for whatever cause or whatever meaning I find in my work and in what I do."



BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUICK** By Dick Hoess**BEETLEBAILEY** By Jeff Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** By Brian Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** By Johnny Hart**HE MAN** By G. Fortini & J. Shinn**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Amber or lumber follower
5 H or T feature
10 "Candida" playwright
14 Fashion magazine
15 Madrid museum
16 Wear's companion
17 Reprobate
18 Kitchen device
19 Art Deco illustrator
20 Withhold
22 Hold back
24 "Exodus" author
25 Scripture
28 eye on
29 Bars
33 Face of Pirates fame
34 Maestro's concern
35 Ironic
36 Swiss capital
37 Observes
38 Small hill, old style
39 Yoko
40 "Mr. Television"
41 60 minutes, in
42 Publicans, Chicago style
44 "Am I my brother's -?"
45 Skiers' mecca
46 Kind of tide
47 Persist
50 Averts
54 Twist out of shape
55 Show the cold
57 Et - and others
58 Scotto specialty
59 Saki
60 Drying chamber
61 Hostalries
- DOWN**
- 1 Sap
2 Lotion
3 Holmes discovery
4 Remain informed
5 Back trouble
6 Ambler and Blore
7 - of lamb
8 Cypripid food fish
9 Permanently
10 Candy, in Britain
11 Orchestral instrument
12 - spumante
13 "Say -"
21 Jenny's cry
23 Montreal player
25 Arizona
26 Skewer specialty
27 Turgenev heroine
28 Mistake
29 Parts of ships' hulls
30 Confess
31 Arrow poison
32 Key worker
34 U. of Md. players
37 Watches do it
38 Memento
40 Composer Bartok
41 Jalopy
43 Lambdas' forerunners
44 Continue
45 Comb. form with surgeon
47 River in 1957 film
48 Merit
49 "go bragh"
50 Superman's alter ego
51 Smelly
52 Kind of cabinet
53 Sibelius, for one
56 -de-sac

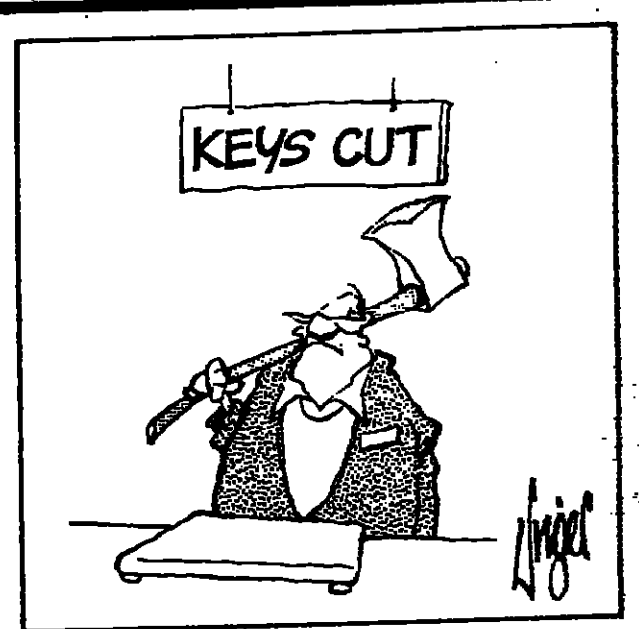
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CAD CARLS ASSIST
OLES ALIA CHART
DESERVING RAVIER
ESCAPEES DEPOSE
RBI NEVA ERSE
OKIE AVIAD
ALBEE TULIP DUE
TEE DESPOTS ETA
SES GLAIR OFFER
BEAD LOSS
ALAE TEAM DOR
DEFAME HEADREST
EVITA DECREASES
SIREN LACE ETIA
SENT IDIAS SAR

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠106 ♣K1063 ♣Q92 ♣Q92
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠106 ♣K1063 ♣Q92 ♣Q92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠106 ♣K1063 ♣Q92 ♣Q92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠Q98532 ♣K4 ♢J42 ♣98
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠A ♣KQJ1085 ♣K5 ♣J832
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠72 ♣KQ109542 ♣954 ♣6
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will find it easier to keep your mind off gloomy thoughts. You should not do anything that might embarrass your partner. Do something different but not too novel. Be smart.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will feel more like your old self. Try not to allow others to get the better of you. If you expect more than you deserve you will be sorely disappointed. You will tire more easily, take all the rest you require without becoming indolent. Be tolerant.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You should do all you can to maintain your health and avoid doing anything you know is bad for it. Do not attempt to do too many things all at once. Resist against acting on the spur of the moment. Be true to your word.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
There will be plenty of distractions but do what has to be done first. You should not pay too much attention to the opinion of others, not ignore them altogether. Do not expect something for nothing.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
There will be some confusion at first but you will be able to sort it out. You should not make changes just for the sake of change. However, do make changes where they are needed. Be generous.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
You will not be in the best of moods and should make an effort not to upset others notwithstanding. Do not let others make a fool of you. However, do not make a fool of yourself either. Be forgiving.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You might have some good luck, but you should not rely on it unless and until it takes place. You will have an interesting and stimulating experience. You will be rather disinclined to do something that has to be done. Be sensible.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
This is an important day where your private life is concerned. Do not do anything that you had not considered carefully first. Avoid doing anything that you know would annoy your neighbors. Do not make changes just for the sake of change. Be fair.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
If you do not mean it do not say it. You should spend a little while dealing with personal matters. Do not idle but do not be in too great a hurry either. Be sincere.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
The influences are mixed and you are subject to a spate of nervousness. You should avoid too many small snacks in between meals. Something you did not believe was will now prove possible. Be merciful.



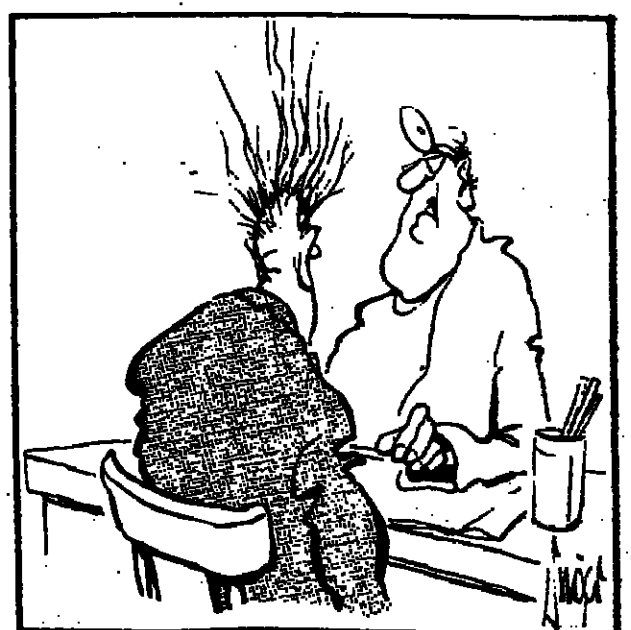
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are all too liable to wait until the last minute. If you do not overcome the trend you will regret it. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 24. You will tend to be a little too ambitious, but that is still better than being indifferent. Be respectful.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20
You should not attempt to do too many things all at once. Avoid anything that involves electricity unless you really know what you are doing. Make sure you do not spend more than you earn. Be reliable.



"I don't know what this is, but it's new and improved, so it must be good!"



"Your head's rejecting your hair transplant!"

مكذوب الابد

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Australia take first innings lead

Taylor, Jones hit half tons

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 20, (Reuters): Half centuries from Mark Taylor and Dean Jones helped Australia to a first innings lead and put them in a commanding position against Pakistan on the second day of the second cricket Test today.

At the close Australia were 259 for five in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 257.

Jones, whose previous top score in eight innings against Pakistan was 21, was 67 not out after batting for more than three hours. He had an escape on 19 when he was dropped off paceman Wasim Akram.

Opener Taylor, who scored a century and a half century in the first Test won by Australia, hit 77 to take his total Test runs for the season past 500.

Australia resumed at 10 for no wicket without opener Geoff Marsh, who broke a thumb while taking a catch yesterday and decided against batting.

Marsh, who only returned to international cricket in the first Test against Pakistan after missing three Tests earlier in the season with a broken toe, was six not out overnight.

David Boon joined Taylor and helped put on 82 for the first wicket before being lbw to Wasim for 29.



Taylor (left) and Jones took Pakistani bowlers to task

Border, playing his record 50th Test as Australian captain, was out for 13 when he tried to

defend a short ball from Waqar Younis but deflected it onto his stumps and was bowled.

Wasim trapped Steve Waugh lbw for 17 and wicketkeeper Ian Healy became Waqar's second

victim when he was out for 12, caught trying to hook with the score on 216.

Peter Taylor joined Jones to guide Australia to a two-run first innings lead and was 14 not out.

Pakistan were missing three players in the field. Salim Malik, who only recently joined the tour after recovering from tonsillitis, broke a thumb when hit by bowler Merv Hughes yesterday, vice captain Javed Miandad has a back injury and opener Shoaib Mohammad has a groin injury.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 52, Wasim Akram 52 C. Rackemann four for 40)

AUSTRALIA first innings (over-

night 10 for no wicket)

G. Marsh retired hurt.....6

M. Taylor lbw b Imran.....77

D. Boon lbw b Wasim.....29

A. Border b Waqar.....13

D. Jones not out.....67

S. Waugh lbw b Wasim.....17

I. Healy c sub (Maqsood Raza) b

Waqar.....12

P. Taylor not out.....14

Extras (lb-11 nb-13).....24

Total (five wickets).....259

Fall of wickets: 1-62 2-113 3-156 4-

188 5-216

To bat: M. Hughes, G. Campbell,

C. Rackemann

Bowling (to date): Wasim 32-6-81-

2 (nb-7), Waqar 20-3-50-2 (nb-3),

Mushtaq 22-4-65-0, Imran 10-2-27-1

(nb-3), Tauseef 8-0-25-0.

\$100,000 offer fails to inspire world records

LOS ANGELES, Jan 20, (Reuters): A bonus offer of \$100,000 for a world best in the mile that attracted runners such as Abdi Bile of Somalia and Paula Ivan of Romania failed to produce fast times at the Los Angeles Invitational Indoor Track Meet yesterday.

Bile, the men's world 1,500 metres champion, finished fifth in a slow four minutes 3.01 seconds. American Steve Scott won the mile in 4:01.29 — far from the indoor best of 3:49.78 set by Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan in 1983.

In the women's mile, Patti Sue Plumer, outpaced Romania's Violeta Bechea to win with a time of 4:33.01 after Ivan, the Olympic 1,500 metres champion, dropped out at about 500 yards after suffering a sprained left ankle on the track's curb.

"Understandably, she (Ivan) is not in the form that she was last summer, but the track here is not great," Plumer said.

In other events, Canada's Angela Bailey won the women's 50 metres with a meet record time of 6.34 seconds.

Greg Foster captured the men's 50-metre hurdles in a meet record of 6.45 seconds.

Doug Padilla came from behind to edge Brian Abshire in the men's 3,000 metres with a time of seven minutes 47.65 seconds.

"The time was about 10 seconds faster than I thought it would be, which is really exciting for so early in the season," Padilla said.

Diane Dixon, who holds the world indoor best, easily captured the women's 440 yards at 53.18 seconds.

Olympic bronze medallist Larry Myricks won the men's long jump at 8.20 metres and France's Thierry Vigneron won the men's pole vault at 5.60 metres.

Five cities shortlisted

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (Reuters): Five cities remain in the running for the four places allocated to European teams in the world League of American Football (WLAFF) which begins play next year, a WLAFF executive said yesterday.

Joseph Bailey, WLAFF executive vice president, told a sports industry seminar that the four European spots in the 12-team League would be chosen from London, Frankfurt, Milan, Barcelona and Paris.

Previously the list also included Rome, Madrid, Amsterdam and Dublin.

Six of the other teams will be located in US cities, with one each in Mexico and Canada — probably Mexico City and Montreal.

"So far, New York is the only city definitely decided," Bailey said.

He explained that the final selection would depend on such factors as stadium and playing facilities, spectator base and the qualifications of prospective owners of the clubs.

The team will be divided into three divisions playing a 10-game season starting in March. The division winners and runner-up with the best record will advance to the playoffs.

Rebels' tour gets off to ugly start

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 20, (Reuters): Police beat and tear-gassed black demonstrators at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport yesterday, an ugly start to a much-polloried South African tour by rebel English cricketers who arrived hours later.

Ten people were arrested and an unknown number injured, some by police dog bites, in the confrontation outside the international terminal where about 150 singing and chanting demonstrators had gathered.

Anti-apartheid campaigners have vowed to disrupt the seven-week tour by the 16 cricketers, who are being paid an average of £100,000 (\$160,000) each for the current tour plus another next season.

The captain of the rebel team, Mike Gatting, indicated his disgust over the police action, which appeared to fly in the face of a lenient policy towards peaceful protest introduced last year by President F.W. de Klerk.

"Obviously we are unhappy that, if it was a peaceful demonstration, it was disrupted," he told a news conference minutes after his arrival.

"Geoff Dakin, president of the South African Cricket Union (SACU), said there was no question of the tour being cut short."

"The tour will run its course," he told reporters.

At the news conference an official of the National Sports Congress, which is leading the



Gatting (left) and Ali Bacher address a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)



A S. African policeman arrests the demonstrator. (Reuters wirephoto)

anti-tour campaign, handed organisers a document spelling out objections to the visit.

Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, was among prominent anti-apartheid figures who went to the airport to underscore the strong feelings whipped up by the tour.

She wasted no time in linking the rebel trip to the entire future of South Africa, saying the police action cast doubt on the sincerity of De Klerk's initiatives to reform apartheid.

Mrs Mandela said the violence had grave implications for current discussions which the

African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement was holding in Lusaka to decide its attitude towards the De Klerk government.

"We may very well have to reconsider our stand," she told an impromptu news conference in the terminal, where whiffs of tear gas lingered.

Nearby, white bystanders in the airport who support the tour got into furious arguments with blacks and ethnic Indians who condemn it. Scores of police, some with dogs, made sure violence did not recur.

Mrs Mandela and other activists have promised more anti-tour actions, such as invading pitches and harassing the players in their hotels.

Some activists said that while they were unhappy with violence, they were pleased with the outcome of the protest.

"This will show the people of the world what the police in South Africa are up to," one said.

Ali Bacher, SACU managing director and mastermind of the tour, said he was confident of its success.

"I am sure that emotions will dissipate and cooler heads will prevail," he said.

Kenyan spends last cents on competition

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 20, (UPI): While Kenyan speedsters Jon Ngugi and Julius Kariuki look like certain gold medallists at the Commonwealth Games, the sentimental favourite is a 17-year-old lad who sold his family's only goat to pay for his bid to compete.

The plight of Joseph Kiber has touched New Zealanders, many of whom fear they'll end up with a tax hike to make up for a Games budget that is already \$16.5 million in the red.

In his smart slacks, jacket and tie along with a wiry build and curly hair, Kiber bears little resemblance to the desperate runner in ragged shorts and bare feet who qualified third in the 10,000 metre trials in his homeland.

Kiber shyly acknowledged he was so anxious for a spot on the national team he sold his family's goat to make the trip from his home in the Elgeyo district to Nairobi. On the day of the event, he had enough money left to buy a cup of tea and one slice of toast.

"I just want to win a gold medal," Kiber said between a rugged schedule of practice sessions.

While his chances are considered slim against the likes of teammates Moses Tanui and Samuel Bitok, who qualified first and second, Kiwis are hoping for a Cinderella story ending.

"When I heard about his (Kiber's) determination to get here I stopped complaining about my taxes," said a taxi driver. "There would be some justice in it all if he wins."

Africa has returned in force to the Games after the 1986 Edinburgh boycott, with Kenya's competitors hopeful of medals. The premier athletes on the team are Ngugi, four times world cross-country champion and gold victor at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and Seoul 3,000-



Four workmen walk in front of a sign at Auckland's International Airport as the city prepares to host the Games. (Reuters wirephoto)

metre steeplechase gold medallist Kariuki.

England refused today to withdraw from the Games amid an unexpected backlash from their cricket team's tour of South Africa.

"There is no legal ground to expel us on the basis of the cricket tour because we fulfilled our obligations under the constitution of the Commonwealth Games Federation," said team spokeswoman Caroline Searle.

The proclamation stemmed from the demands of some African sports leaders seeking CGF action against England.

"Every team is in training and competing," said Searle, with England sending the largest delegation of 347 participants.

Officials stressed they expect no adverse repercussions from

the cricket team's tour.

"The federation reaffirms its strong condemnation and disapproval of the tour," said CGF secretary David Dixon. He said however an executive meeting will be held tomorrow, only three days before the start of the extravaganza that has attracted 3,100 athletes from 56 countries, the largest since the Games started in 1930.

After refusing to withdraw and return home, officials with the English contingent promptly announced Karen Briggs, four-time women's world judo champion, will carry the flag in the opening ceremonies.

Dixon said he was "highly critical of the cricketers tour and indeed any sports contact with South Africa which puts the Commonwealth Games in

jeopardy."

"In no way is New Zealand responsible for what British sport is doing and the African countries have taken into account with their response to these Games," he said.

The English have also condemned the tour. Searle said the country's Commonwealth Games council did everything in its power to persuade the rebel cricketers to abandon their plans.

"Under the terms of its constitution, the council was obliged to protest," Searle said, "but it went one step further and wrote directly to the cricketers pointing out the consequences that there might be a boycott of the Auckland Games if England competed."

"There was nothing more the



NHL games

Hartford Whalers' Ron Francis (left) and Kevin Dineen (centre) attack the net as Calgary Flames' goalie Mike Vernon makes a lunging stick save in a National Hockey League game in Hartford, Connecticut, on Friday. The game ended in a 3-3 draw. Right: Washington Capitals centre Dale Hunter (left) and Buffalo Sabres winger Rick Vaive (centre) collide along the boards as Sabres defenceman Uwe Krupp skates for the puck. Capitals won the game 6-3. In the other NHL matches, Chicago Black Hawks beat Vancouver Canucks 5-2 and New York Islanders defeated Winnipeg Jets 6-4. (Reuters wirephotos)



Pooley takes lead in Bob Hope Classic

LA QUINTA, Calif. Jan 20, (Reuters): Don Pooley, determined to make up for the previous day's disappointing finish, shot a splendid six-under-par 66 on the Bermuda Dunes course yesterday to take a one-stroke lead in the million-dollar Bob Hope Classic golf tournament.

Pooley finished at 15-under-par 201 with two rounds to go in this 90-hole event. Peter Jacobsen, who shot 69, and Australian Steve Elkington, who fired a 65 on the same PGA West/Arnold Palmer course, were tied at 20.

On his last hole on Thursday, Pooley made a double bogey six as he finished the week with a 70.

Pooley said that mistake "made me more determined today not to make another mistake. It made me angry to think I could play so well and then give up two strokes on the last hole. I think it helped me today."

Robert Gamez, the winner last week at the Tucson Open in his first tournament as a member of the PGA Tour, along with Tom Kite, Chip Beck, Mike Reid and Don Shirley were tied at 13-under-par 203.

Pooley played his outgoing nine in five-under 32 and then added two birdies plus a bogey coming home. He again stumbled at the end, however, and slipped from a two-shot lead when he bogeyed the 17th.

Elkington made his climb toward the top on the strength of a string of seven birdies.

The Australian started on the 10th hole and promptly made a bogey. He parred the next hole and then began his run of birdies. He hit the ball close on every hole except his fifth where he was short of the green but chipped in from 30 feet.

Kite had the lowest round of the fourth-place group, an eight-under-par 64 at Indian Wells. He played his first nine holes (starting at the 10th) in seven-under-par 29.

Neumann hits 68 for top place

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Jan 20, (Reuters): Liselotte Neumann of Sweden overcame gusting winds to post a three-under-par 68 yesterday that gave her a one-shot lead after the first round of the \$500,000 Jamaica Classic.

Neumann took advantage of gentler conditions on the front nine of the par-71 Tryall Club to take the lead over Patty Sheehan and Missie Berteotti. Cathy Morse was another shot back at 70.

The Swede birdied three holes on the front side before making the turn into the last nine holes where the full brunt of the 40-kph winds were felt.

"On the front side, the wind does not blow as hard because there are more trees and hills," said Neumann, who won the 1988 US Women's Open.

Neumann birdied two holes and bogeyed two on the back nine, including the 18th where she drove the ball right, hit a four iron short, chipped and two-putted from 12 feet.

Berteotti made a batch of birdies but was held down by four bogeys — all through three-putting — as she finished the day at two-under.

"The greens are not easy. You have to use a lot of imagination," said Berteotti. "There are a lot of slopes and the course is in great shape."

Sheehan, who also shot 69, described the day as "the war of the winds."

"At times it was a four-club wind. Getting your balance out there was tough," said Sheehan.

Jockey charged

VINTON, Louisiana, Jan 20, (UPI): The phantom fog jockey of the Delta Downs race track, accused of hiding his horse in a fog bank and then rushing to victory, has been charged with felony theft by fraud and suspended for the remainder of the track's season.

Sylvester Carmouche, 31, was taken into custody Thursday by the state police criminals investigative division and taken to Lafayette. He was freed after posting \$1,500 bond.

Carmouche is accused of using heavy fog to hide his horse, landing officer, near the top of the stretch for a mile-long (1,600 m) race Jan 11. It is believed the jockey remained at that point as eight other horses in the race circled the track, then joined the race as the field approached the final turn.

Landing officer won the race by 24 lengths but later was disqualified because stewards and track officials suspected the horse had not run the entire race.

Hearings into the incident began last Friday and were continuing.

ملف من الصحف

SPORTS

Doncaster official criticised

LONDON, Jan 20, (Reuters): A top official at Doncaster racecourse, scene of last year's St Leger meeting fiasco, has been criticised for relying on methods "20 years out of date."

The charge is contained in a report issued today by the sport's ruling body in Britain, the Jockey Club.

The report was ordered after last year's St Leger, the final English Classic of the season, had to be transferred to Ayr in Scotland because of holes in the track caused by faulty drainage work.

Doncaster clerk of the course Pat Firth, who retires from the post in March after 12 years, is described as "conscientious, hard working and dependable."

But the report concludes that Firth, who planned and supervised the drainage work, "cannot be absolved from his primary responsibility under the rules."

His specifications for the work were "not based, we find, on informed study, instruction or consultation," says the report.

"Indeed, Mr Firth had an entrenched scepticism of experts, preferring what he regarded as his own tried and trusted methods. These are now 20 years out of date."

Underground holes left by drainage work led to the abandonment of the St Leger meeting in September after four horses fell in two incidents on two different days. Two jockeys spent two days in hospital.

Holding

But Doncaster council, owners of the racecourse, immediately leapt to the defence of Firth.

In criticised the Jockey Club for not holding a similar investigation into the abandonment 15 months earlier of a meeting at Leicester, when the Midlands course was declared unsafe following drainage work.

Doncaster's race committee chairman, Ron Gillies said: "We find this totally bewildering and it is totally unacceptable to the council that the Jockey Club should apportion blame, particularly to individuals, for not complying with non-existent rules."

Gillies also feels that more reference should have been made to the weather conditions during the summer.

"It was the warmest and driest for over 300 years. The report admits that the situation at Doncaster arose from a combination of circumstances which are never likely to be repeated."

Among recommendations in the 20-page report is one that responsibility for the condition of tracks should rest in future with course executives.

The reports also says all drainage work and other repairs should be carried out with the knowledge and guidance of the club's inspector of courses.

Entry refused

HANNOVER, West Germany, Jan 20, (UPI): European table tennis champion Filura Bulatova was refused entry to the European top-12 tournament yesterday after a tug-of-war between the player and her national association.

The Soviet Union had been trying for weeks to prevent her entry and, although the player made her own way to the event and pleaded to be allowed to play, she was turned down by the European Table Tennis Union.

Becker stands by drug quote, criticizes new courts

Sabatini tumbles out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 20, (Reuters): A distraught Gabriela Sabatini left the Australian Open tennis championships in a wheelchair today after being forced to retire from her third round match with a severely twisted ankle.

The exit of the second-seeded Argentine from the first match on centre court heralded a day when the opening Grand Slam tournament of the 1990s finally came to life after five days of predictable results and little drama.

Just 90 minutes later Australia's Mark Woodforde collapsed on court one with a similar but more serious injury than Sabatini, triggering a chorus of concern about the rubberised court surface.

Wimbledon and US Open champion Boris Becker, who suggested Open organisers should switch back to grass, was untroubled on court against Frenchman Olivier Delaite.

But Becker was less happy when asked about comments made in an interview with a West German magazine, which he stood by, that he would probably take drugs if he thought he was being beaten because other players were using them.

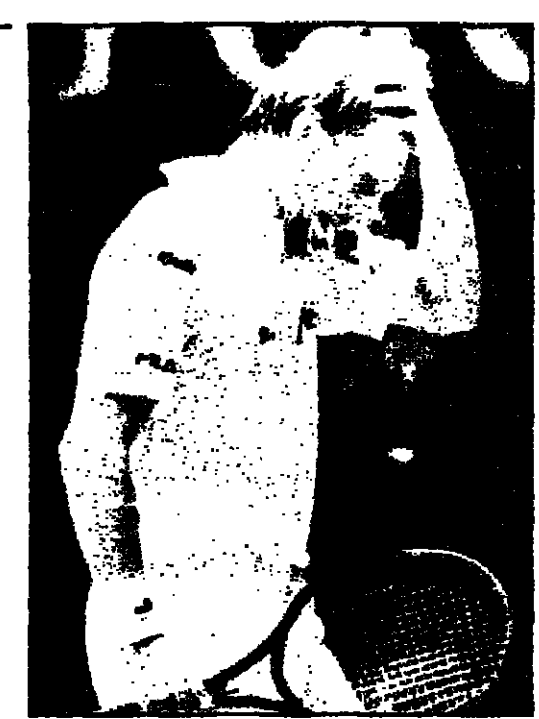
Becker, the men's second seed, and third seed Stefan Edberg both lost just eight games in reaching the last 16 where they were joined by Veli Paloheimo — the first Finn to go past the third round in a Grand Slam tournament — and American David Wheaton, who profited from Woodforde's retirement.

Wheaton will now play fifth-seeded Aaron Krickstein after the American defeated Lars Wahlberg of Sweden 6-7 6-6 3-6-2.

Sabatini, one of the most



Sweden's Stefan Edberg enjoys a piece of cake for his 24th birthday on Sunday. Right: Boris Becker reacts after missing a shot. (Reuters wirephotos)



Sweden's Stefan Edberg enjoys a piece of cake for his 24th birthday on Sunday. Right: Boris Becker reacts after missing a shot. (Reuters wirephotos)

fluent movers in the game, fell heavily when off balance after racing to reach a drop shot from West Germany's Claudia Porwik.

Leading 6-1 1-0 at the time, she limped to her chair at the side of the court, with a lump the size of an egg clearly visible on the side of her left ankle before an ice pack was applied. A clearly distressed Sabatini covered her eyes with a towel as Porwik came over to offer sympathy.

The five minute period allowed to players to recover from injury had nearly passed when, grunting with pain, she told officials she could not continue.

She was taken to hospital where doctors said she had a slightly torn ligament in her left ankle.

It will be two to three weeks before Sabatini can test her leg again but Woodforde faces an operation, and six months out of the game, after tearing two ligaments completely away from his right ankle bone.

The main beneficiary of Sabatini's departure will be her doubles partner, world number one Steffi Graf, who now appears to have no serious rival for her third successive Open title.

"She told me she was in a lot of

"My performance today was absolutely embarrassing," said Mandlikova, a two-time winner here. "If I'm not able to do more against a player like that, it's very sad."

Donna Faber beat fellow American Ros Fairbank, seeded 14th, while number three seed Zina Garrison of the United States had to fight back from a set down before beating France's Isabelle Demongeot 5-7 6-3 6-4.

Becker said the rebound ace surface caused problems because it reflected the heat and did not allow players to slip, holding their foot fast when they changed direction.

But his views on drugs were what most interested a packed press conference.

"When I'm competing in a game and the only difference was that the other guy was beating me because he was taking drugs then I have two choices — I stop or I take drugs as well."

Results

Third round results at the Australian Open tennis championships today (premier number denotes seeding) — 6-Mary Joe Fernandez (US) beat Julie Halard (France) 6-0 6-1 6-0; Donna Faber (US) beat 14-Ros Fairbank (US) 6-3 6-4; Claudia Porwik (West Germany) beat 2-Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 2-6 0-1 (retired); 15-Gigi Fernandez (US) beat Tami Whittinger (US) 7-4 (8-6) 6-3; Dinky van Rensburg (South Africa) beat Sandra Wasserman (Belgium) 6-4 6-2; David Wheaton (US) beat Mark Woodforde (Australia) 6-3 4-3 (retired); Veli Paloheimo (Finland) beat Javier Sanchez (Spain) 7-5 6-4 3-6 6-1; 2-Boris Becker (West Germany) beat Olivier Delaite (France) 6-3 6-1 6-4; Jonas Svensson (Sweden) beat Lars Jonsson (Sweden) 6-4 7-5 3-6 4-6 6-2; 5-Aaron Krickstein (US) beat 16-Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia) 6-4 6-2 6-0; 3-Stefan Edberg (Sweden) beat Paul Chamberlin (US) 6-3 6-4 6-1; 16-Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia) beat Udo Riegelski (West Germany) 6-4 6-2 6-0.



Sabatini lies on the court.



The Argentine waits for treatment.

Johnson stripped of records

TOKYO, Jan 20, (AP): Track and field's international governing body decided today to strip Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson of his world records in the 100-metre and the indoor 50 — and 60-metre dashes, a spokesman said.

Johnson's records were erased from the books because of his admitted use of performance-enhancing drugs, International Amateur Athletic Federation spokesman Franco Fava told the Associated Press.

The decision was made during a closed-door meeting of the IAAF's 23-member council this morning.

The official announcement was set for tomorrow by IAAF president Primo Nebiolo, federation officials said.

Fava said the IAAF council's decision gave six-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis his first world record in an outdoor individual event — 9.92 seconds in the 100-metres.

Lewis, of the United States, clocked that time at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 where he finished second after Johnson.

Johnson, however, had the gold medal and record time of 9.79 seconds taken away because he failed a post-race drug test.

The IAAF decision to also strip Johnson, 28, of his world records was made because the muscular Canadian admitted under oath last June that he



Ben Johnson

Carl Lewis

begin using steroids in 1981 and was taking massive doses by 1987, when his 100-metre record of 9.83 seconds was set at the world championships in Rome. He passed a drug test there.

Sanford of the United States tied that record in San Diego in February 1981.

Johnson's indoor 60-metre record of 6.41 seconds was taken over by US runner Lee McRae's 6.50 seconds, Fava said. McRae's record was set in Indianapolis in March 7, 1987.

The IAAF further decided to nullify the women's indoor 50-metre dash record of 6.06 seconds held by Angela Issajenko, a Canadian and former teammate of Johnson's. Issajenko testified at the Canadian government inquiry that she had taken drugs before her performance. Her record goes to Maria Koch, of East Germany, who ran the 50-metre indoor in 6.11 seconds in Grenoble in February 1980.

After Johnson's confession, the IAAF introduced tougher rules against doping, including global, out-of-competition testing for steroids and their masking agents. The IAAF, track and field's international governing body, voted in September to take records away from athletes who testify under oath that they used drugs when the records were set.

Records can be erased even if the athlete passed dope tests at the meets where the records were made.

The decision would normally become official on Jan 1, when the IAAF releases its annual list of world records.

ATHLETICS

Tanui betters Elliott's 1,000m record

AUCKLAND, Jan 20, (Reuters): Kenyan William Tanui bettered 1989 Elliott's three-day-old New Zealand all-comers' 1,000 metres record today in the final warm-up athletics meeting for next week's Commonwealth Games.

Tanui, who has a personal best of three minutes 36.6 seconds for 1,000 metres, clocked two minutes 15.83 seconds, leading from the front throughout.

He passed 800 metres in just over 1:48 and easily held off compatriot Sammy Tirop in the straight.

Englishman Elliott, who clocked 2:16.30 for the distance in Hamilton on Wednesday, looked just as convincing in winning the 1,500 in 3:36.76.

Lindford Christie, the Olympic silver medalist, ran the fastest 100 metres in New Zealand with 10.18 but was denied the all-comers' record because of a following wind of 2.74 metres a second.

Christie was beaten out of the blocks by Canada's new hope Bruny Surin but quickly recovered to take the lead at 60 metres and won easily despite coasting over the last 10 metres, and won easily, despite coasting over the last 10 metres.

Christie later clocked 20.54 in the 200 — an all-comers' record for just 10 minutes when fellow-Englishman John Regis, the world indoor champion, ran 0.02 of a second quicker.

"Everything is going very well," said Christie, whose 1989 season was disrupted by a heel injury.

The European champion missed qualifying for the English 200 team but said: "I am not complaining, the system, was fair. But I wanted to race the guys who were running the 200 — that was my motivation."

Australia's Olympic women's 400 metres hurdles champion Debbie Flintoff-King, another athlete whose 1989 season was marred by injury, showed she had made a full recovery with an untroubled win in 55.92, an all-comers' record.



A doctor tends to Sabatini's ankle.



And she is wheeled out of the tournament. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jordan helps Bulls shoot down Hawks

ATLANTA, Jan 20, (AP): Michael Jordan, held to two points on 1-for-10 shooting in the first half, scored 32 points in the second half last night, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 92-84 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

The loss extended Atlanta's longest losing streak in five years to six games, while Chicago stayed a half-game behind Detroit in the Central Division.

Jordan scored 18 points in the third quarter, including 10 during a crucial 21-6 run late in the period. He was 11-for-14 in the second half.

The Hawks were ahead 54-40 with 8:06 left in the third quarter on a dunk by Dominique Wilkins, who finished with 26 points. Six minutes later, the Bulls were ahead 61-60.

Celtics 108, Pacers 104

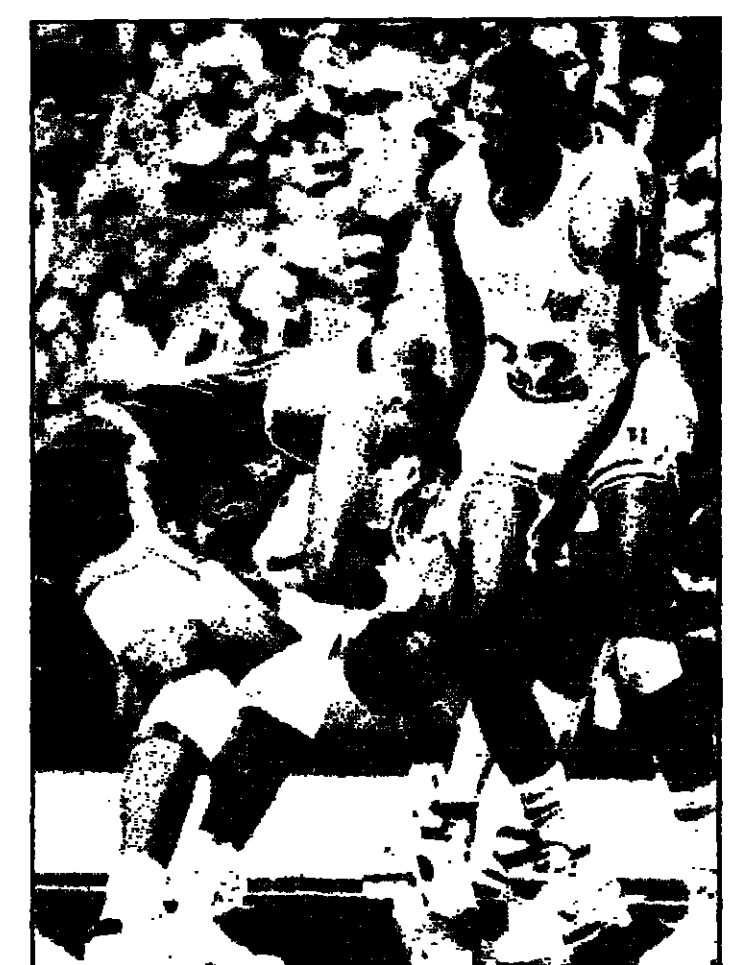
Larry Bird scored 29 points, and Boston survived last-minute 3-point field goals by Chuck Person and Reggie Miller to beat Indiana.

The victory was the Celtics' eighth in 11 games and their first at home yesterday after five consecutive losses. The Pacers have lost eight of their last 11 games, including seven straight defeats on the road.

Two free throws by Dennis Johnson gave Boston a 103-97 lead with 59 seconds remaining. Person, who had 20 points, and Miller, who scored 15 of his 34 in the fourth quarter, then hit 3-



Atlanta Hawks' John Konnack (left) and Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen go after a loose ball. (Reuters wirephoto)



New York Knicks' Patrick Ewing (centre) tries to recover a rebound. (Reuters wirephoto)

pointers around two free throws by Reggie Lewis, closing the margin to 105-103 with 24 seconds to play.

Johnson hit two more foul shots with 21 seconds left, and Lewis made a game-clinching layup with 4.7 seconds remaining.

Robert Parish added 22 points

Results			
Boston	109	Indiana	104
Philadelphia	102	Miami	95
Orlando	120	New Jersey	105
Chicago	92	Atlanta	84
Detroit	125	Golden State	118
Milwaukee	103	L.A. Lakers	92
Utah	116	Charlotte	103
Dallas	117	New York	105
San Antonio	104	Cleveland	101

Perez to defend title

LOS ANGELES, Jan 20, (Reuters): Raul Perez of Mexico defends his World Boxing Council bantamweight title on Monday against former champion Gaby Canizales, who hopes to extend his family's control of the division with a victory at the Los Angeles Forum.

The scheduled 12-round bout will be the fourth title defence for the 22-year-old Perez, who has a professional record of 44 wins and one loss with 28 victories within the distance.

Canizales, a 30-year-old American who held the World Boxing Association version of the title briefly in 1986, is ranked seventh. He has a professional record of 45-6.

If Canizales wins the WBC championship, it would create a unique situation in the bantamweight division with his family holding two of the three world titles.

His brother Orlando already holds the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title which he is scheduled to defend on Wednesday in Sunderland, England, against Briton Billy Hardy.

It will be the second meeting between Canizales and Perez. In July 1987, Perez stopped Canizales in the ninth round of a non-title fight. Perez, who won the title in October 1988 with a unanimous decision over Colombian Miguel 'Happy' Lora, defended his crown three times last year.

Perez, whose nickname 'Jibaro' means 'the skinny one', has a huge 5-1/2-inch (14 cm) height advantage and a 10-inch (25.4 cm) reach advantage over his opponent.

The soft spoken fighter from Tijuana revealed his determination at a press conference ahead of the bout. "He will have to kill me to take away the title," he said.

Canizales won the WBA title in March 1986 by stopping compatriot Richie Sandoval. Three months later in his next fight, he was dethroned by Bernardo Pinango of Venezuela who scored a unanimous decision.

Blind skier suspended

FLINT, Michigan, Jan 20, (AP): The US disabled ski team suspended a champion blind skier while they investigate allegations that she isn't really sightless.

Julie Wallace, 25, of Flint, insists the suspicions are unfounded and has threatened legal action against the ski officials. She said she has medical proof that she is totally blind and has leukemia and a brain tumour.

The Grand County Sheriff's Department in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, is investigating whether Wallace misrepresented herself to raise money from sponsors. Lt Tom Nison said.

"She is so phenomenally better than anybody I have dealt with that that causes some immediate concern," said Jack Benedict, director of the disabled ski team.

If Wallace is found to have misrepresented her disability, she won't be allowed to compete in next month's international championships, and two gold medals won in contests last year will be taken away, said Paul Dibello of the National Sports Centre for the disabled at Winter Park Resorts in Colorado.

She will have to go through "a very, very stringent test" to verify her lack of vision, Dibello said.

Villa beat Southampton to share lead

Rush keeps Liverpool on top

LONDON, Jan 20, (Reuters): Ian Rush stabbed home his 18th goal of the season to help Liverpool stay ahead in the English Soccer League on goal difference today as closest rivals Aston Villa overcame determined Southampton 2-1.

Liverpool won 2-0 at Crystal Palace to remain on top with 46 points, level with Villa, who have a game in hand, while third-placed Arsenal also kept in touch thanks to a 1-0 victory over arch-rivals Tottenham in their north London clash.

Welsh international Rush, back into his familiar high-scoring routine at Liverpool, scored from close-range after just eight minutes at Crystal Palace, whose last encounter with Liverpool in September ended in a 9-0 defeat. England forward Peter Beardsley, who set up Rush's goal by neatly side-stepping goalkeeper Nigel Martyn, signed from Bristol Rovers for \$1.6 million, sealed the result in the 64th minute with a low shot from the edge of the area.

Palace played the last 20 minutes with only 10 men after an expensive error by manager Steve Coppell.

He sent on two substitutes without realising that midfielder



Southampton's Kevin Moore (left) and Paul Rideout (right) sandwich Villa's Ian Olney and Ian Ormondroyd. (Reuters wirephoto)

Eddie McGoldrick was on the ground with a knee injury and in need of a stretcher.

Nottingham Forest move up into fourth on 36 points, ahead of Southampton, after beating Derby 2-0.

Goalkeeper Martyn, who had never played against Liverpool, was given a baptism of fire as Rush pushed hard to maintain his strike rate of 10 goals in the past 10 matches.

Results

English Division One		
Arsenal	1	Tottenham 0
Aston Villa	2	Southampton 1
Chelsea	3	Charlton 1
Crystal Palace	0	Liverpool 2
Derby	0	Notts Forest 2
Everton	2	Sheff Wed 0
Leeds	1	Q.P.R. 1
Manchester C.	1	Coventry 0
Millwall	0	Wimbledon 0
Playing Sunday: Norwich v Manchester United		

English Division Two

Barnsley	1	Plymouth 1
Bournemouth	3	Spwisch 0
Leeds	2	Stoke 0
Leicester	1	Watford 1
Oldham	1	Newcastle 1
Oxford	1	Blackburn 1
Portsmouth	3	Reading 0
Port Vale	2	Brighton 0
Sheff U.	1	Middlesbrough 0
Sunderland	1	West Bromwich 1
West Ham	2	Hull 1
Wolves	2	Swindon 1

English Division Three

Bolton	3	Cardiff 1
Brentford	2	Bristol R. 1
Bristol C.	1	Bury 1
Crewe	0	Birmingham 2
Mansfield	1	Leyton Orient 0
Notts County	0	Rotherham 1
Preston	0	

English Division Four

Aldershot	1	Gillingham 0
Barnet	0	Rochedale 1
Cambridge	2	Grimsby 1
Carlisle	2	Hereford 1
Colchester	1	Chesham 0
Doncaster	2	Exeter 1
Hartlepool	1	Halifax 0
Maidstone	1	Peterborough 1
Scunthorpe	1	Lincoln 1
Torquay	3	Stockport 0
Wexham	0	Scarborough 2
York	2	Southend 1

Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup

Third round:		
Airdrieonians	2	Inverness C 2
Albion	0	Clydebank 2
Ayr	0	St Mirren 0
Brechin	0	Hibernian 2
Cowdenbeath	3	Stranraer 0
Dundee	0	Dundee U 0
Dunfermline	0	Hamilton 1
Fife	3	Montrose 1
Forfar	1	Celtic 1
Hearts	2	Falkirk 0
Morton	2	Raith 2
Motherwell	7	Clyde 0
Partick	2	Aberdeen 0
Queen of S	0	Alloa 0
Rangers	3	St Johnstone 0

Former champs to top bill at music recital

JAKARTA, Jan 20, (UPI): Three former boxing champions, Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes and Tim Witherspoon are set to top the bill at a sports and music recital in Jakarta next March, the official news agency Antara reported today.

A spokesperson for the organiser Ade Nasution said the three greats will be part of a group of 60 entertainers from the United States who will perform three shows during their stay in Jakarta. They arrive on March 14.

Nasution said 48-year-old Ali will not throw a single punch during the show but Holmes and Witherspoon will treat fans to a three-round exhibition match.

American fans should get to see the show, too. The US television network Financial News Network (FNN) plans to broadcast it live across the United States, Nasution said.

According to the FNN's vice-president Arnie Rosenthal, FNN has an audience of more than 30 million people in the United States.



Platini (right): addressing the press conference

France set to face Kuwait in friendly

By Emad Al Qurani

FRANCE meet Kuwait this evening in its second game of its three-match tour of Kuwait. In the first match on Thursday, France beat Qadisiya Sports Club 3-0.

This evening's match will be played at the Kazma Stadium and will start at 5.30 pm.

France, who are preparing for the 1994 World Cup and the next European Soccer Championship, have brought a full-strength side to Kuwait and are expected to win the game.

Kuwait, who reached the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, are expected to put up a fight. Kuwait are also preparing for the Gulf Soccer Championships which they are hosting next month.

Michel Platini, manager of the French team said in Kuwait yesterday that he had chosen Kuwait to hold a training camp because of his friendly relations with Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the suitable climatic conditions and the facilities provided by Kuwait.

Addressing a press conference in Kuwait yesterday, Platini welcomed the Kuwait national team

to hold a training camp in France but said that July was the most appropriate time to hold such a camp.

Asked about the failure of France of not reaching the World Cup final rounds, Platini said that his feelings were the same as that of the Kuwaitis who also did not qualify for the World Cup finals. He predicted that traditional football countries like Brazil, Argentina, Holland, Italy, West Germany and perhaps Yugoslavia and England will reach the finals of the World Cup.

Platini added that he was satisfied with the performance of his team but said that he is introducing comprehensive changes to the French football. He said that he tries to incorporate tactics that suit all the players he selects. He also wants to include a new spirit in the team. Platini said that the French team performed well recently and has not lost its last six matches. He stressed that France would reach the final rounds of the European Championship. Platini added that "in Europe they say we are in the 13th position, but I want to show them the true quality of French soccer."

Argentine star starts another controversy

MILAN, Italy, Jan 20, (AP): Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, who is used to creating uproars on and off the field, began a crusade this week against the Italian sportswriters practice of grading players' performances.

Maradona complains that players are treated like school boys in Monday sports pages by writers who give marks ranging from one to 10 based on a player's performance in Sunday's Major League action.

The talkative forward, who was apparently stung by the low marks he received after last Sunday's match, is likely to get the full support of other players. However, the players have little hope of bringing an end to the popular soccer feature that has appeared in Italian newspapers since the 1950s.

Maradona, who recently caused an international furore by alleging that the World Cup draw had been fixed, complained that sportswriters "have no right to treat us like children." He also contended that "their judgements are often in bad faith."

Maradona urged the Italian Association of Professional Players — a sort of players' trade union — to defend its members from the "attacks" of the reporters and to possibly put an end to the publication of the report-cards.

Merit marks for soccer players are published in some West German and French newspapers but not in England.

Maradona's complaint began Monday when Naples' most authoritative daily *Il Mattino* gave him an extremely low mark — 3.5 — for his lacklustre performance against Udinese.

In Italy's soccer report cards, which sometimes combine low or high marks with a brief explanation for the judgement, six is considered the lowest passing mark.

England, France triumph

LONDON, Jan 20, (Reuters): England scored 16 points in a pulsating final 10 minutes to crush Ireland 23-0 (halftime 7-0) in their opening Five Nations Rugby Union championship match today.

England scored two goals, two tries and a penalty goal, their final burst coming after a brief spell of Irish dominance midway through the second half in which the visitors came close to what would have been a brilliant try.

Ireland pressed hard from the start and dominated the line-outs, but full-back Simon Hodgkinson broke the deadlock after a quarter of an hour with a penalty from the right after one of a string of offides excellent French referee Patrick Robin gave against the Irish forwards.

In the 25th minute winger Rory Underwood burst through on the right, turned as he was tackled and fed veteran Prop Jeff Probyn, who stormed over for the first try.

There was no more scoring for nearly 45 minutes until lock David Egerton claimed the second try 10 minutes from time when England opted to run the ball for a free-kick near the Irish posts. Hodgkinson converted.

Underwood brought his try tally for England to 19 in his 35th international when he raced down his wing to finish off a superb move. Busy scrum-half Richard Hill began it, feeding flanker Peter Winterbottom from a ruck, and the ball reached the wing via fly-half Rob Andrew and both centres.

Hodgkinson failed to convert Underwood's try but he slotted the ball home after the last try in the final minute, when England turned an Irish attack into counter-attack and Jeremy Guscott ran over near the posts.

Champions France powered their way to a 29-19 win over Wales today after Welsh lock Kevin Moseley was sent off.

The French claimed their fourth successive victory in Cardiff and their eighth straight win over the Welsh.

They overran the opposition in the second half and ended up with five tries.

Moseley, winning his fifth cap, was sent off by English referee Fred Howard after 33 minutes for stamping on French prop Jean-Pierre Garret.

His dismissal initially fired Wales to take a 13-9 lead at halftime thanks to a cheeky try by wing Mark Tildy and accurate penalty-kicking from Paul Thorburn.

Top player

MONTEVIDEO, Jan 20, (Reuters): Brazilian soccer star Jose Roberto Gama "Bebeto" has been declared Latin America's top player. The goal-scoring forward, who is a member of Brazil's World Cup squad, received his award from Eduardo Rocca, the Uruguayan Football Federation's representative of the International Soccer Association (Fifa).

BRIDGE

RESULTS of marathon bridge game held on Friday:

1. Dr. Abdel & Mrs. Dora Materny
2. Sherin & Sabri
3. Nahila Akel & Lolli Murthwaite

With handicap points

1. A. Tawil & Bianca
2. Hamed & Rita
3. Aurora & Chandrasekhar

Kuwait's title bid foiled

Dubai Horse Show

DUBAI: Dina Bajjan's bold attempt to win the junior Grand Prix title for Kuwait at the Dubai Horse Show was foiled as the UAE added to its string of victories yesterday.

Riding Caravan, the young Kuwaiti was one of four riders to produce a clear round at the Metropolitan Hotel showground and reach the jump-off.

First back into the arena, Bajjan had one fence down and then saw a trio of Dubai youngsters go clear to take the top three places. Ameena Dasmal on Dubai Surprise swept into the lead with a time of 34.11 secs. Shemma Abulhoul was faster on Ibn El Khursan in 33.15 secs, but they were both beaten as Annisa Buisaim surged to victory on Tia Maria in 31.37 secs.

Earlier Zaad Rashid on the Kuwait Police team's Mr Moses took second place in the knockout stakes, in which two riders were paired against each other over identical courses.

Rashid produced some fine performances to reach the final before losing the race against the UAE's Adel Ahmed on Oliver. Kuwait's Nader Ibrahim on Hot Gossip and Saudi Arabia's Capt. Suliman Al Dakhil on Shafi were joint

third.

Kuwait had enjoyed its best success on Friday night in the Ghandour Team Cup. Victory went to the combined Kuwait Army and police team of Felah Al Moteri on Archway, Ali Al Aizmi on Statesman, Jaal Rashied riding Lagerway and Rakad Al Dhafeer on Liwice, with a combined total of just eight faults over two rounds.

Runners-up ahead of the star-studded Rest of the World team were Kuwait Hunting and Equestrian Club A, for whom Nadia Al Mutawa on Joost, Hisham Hateb riding Vindicator, Juliet Bosel on Hoodunit and Gemila Al Mutawa on Kuwait Bibi collected 11-1/2 faults.

They were all hoping for another Kuwaiti triumph in the senior Grand Prix event last night, in which Britain's Michael Whitaker was attempting to follow up his wins in the opening international class and the new Emirates Stakes.

By taking that second title — introduced this year by the international airline of the UAE — Whitaker put himself within sight of a unique treble at the show which has attracted record entries this week and seen some thrilling contests.

Al Soor beat Shuwaikh for crown

By Sonny Mariano

AFTER the long and gruelling elimination round, the top four from a field of 12 teams which qualified for the step-ladder championship brought out the best moments of the L&M-PBAK Winter League.

The first match of the step-ladder was between Surra-Magnolia/Far East and Salmiya-NTC who placed 3rd and 4th respectively in the elimination round. The NTC-Traders took the early initiative and has the slight advantage going into the 9th frame. A sudden turn of events turned the tide in favour of title hungry Magnolia-Far East and they held on to turn back the NTC Traders.

This victory gave Magnolia-Far East a shot at the second running Al Soor-Najd Cargo. The first few frames showed another tense and exciting game about to unfold but the Cargo forwards showed a lot of bowling power in the remaining frames to easily subdue the threat of Magnolia-Far East.

After this morale-boosting triumph, Al Soor-Najd Cargo who have been in the second position all throughout the elimination round had to contend with their previous tormentor and top



Al Soor Najd Cargo: champions

qualifier Shuwaikh-Chiquita for the coveted title. Both teams made it clear to one another that there was no room for errors and missed shots as they traded strikes and spares right from the start.

This scenario put the spectators

at edge of their seats and made them more tense and nervous than the bowlers themselves. It was at this point that the Cargo Forwarders stepped on the gas and with Saleh at helm they outscored the Banana Magnates in the

3rd, 4th, and 5th frames to move up by 5 big marks. But like a true blooded champion Chiquita fought back mightily in next three frames to cut down the lead of Najd Cargo to 2 marks. In the 9th and penultimate frame, Najd Cargo held on to the lead but Chiquita was now fast closing in. The 10th and final frame turned out to be a battle of the nerves where a single missed shot was like a deadly sin.

After the first four bowlers of each team had finished their games, the lead of Al Soor-Najd Cargo was reduced to a single pin and victory and defeat was now at the hands of the anchor man of both teams. The two anchor men, Saleh for Najd Cargo and Lando Caburao for Chiquita, had spares going into the last frame so the results of their first throw would spell a lot of difference. To add to the suspense, both bowlers managed to topple 9 pins in their first throw which really brought down the match to wire and as other might call it a photo finish.

Both bowlers now had to make a spare to stay in the game and Saleh gloriously converted his shot and scored 9 pinfalls in his bonus ball. All eyes were now on the banana king Lando Caburao

who had to convert on his shot for a spare and then score 9 pinfalls on his bonus ball to tie or a strike for title.

But just as Lando had thrown the ball, everybody in the gallery knew that it would miss the single pin which stalled their title retention bid thus giving the Al Soor-Najd Cargo a reason to jump for joy. For Shuwaikh-Chiquita it must really be a heart-breaking loss but for most of those who witnessed this battle royale they too are champions in their own right and so with that their efforts and great team spirit Al Soor-Najd Cargo, the champions of them all, deserved this hard earned victory.

The final outcome of the individual awards are as follows: For men, High Game-Mohammed Al Amer (258), High Series-Naser Seraj (645), High Average-Rico Pino (184) and Most Valuable Player-Rico Pino (Shuwaikh-Chiquita). For women, High Game-Jerry Fox (236), High Series-Debbie Proctor (584), High Average-Amy Abdon (165) and Most Valuable Player-Bojo Hamdan (Tectron).

After the smooth staging of this league, due recognition and thanks should be given to the organising committee headed by tournament chairman Cora Paras assisted by tournament directors Vic Paras, Bojo Hamdan, Jimmy Tadana, Beda Borja, Miko Coronado, Joe Bilog, Mars Balisi, Burt Ramos, Flor Tongson, Robert Virgo, and Rico Pino. The same goes to Ms Julie Dent of Holiday Inn and to L&M for sponsoring the tournament.

Announcement
The general election of the next set of PBAK officers for the year 1990 will be held on January 26 from 3:00-8:00 pm at the Holiday Inn ballroom. For further information, consult any of the outgoing PBAK officers. A final meeting of the outgoing PBAK officers will be held at the new Far East Restaurant on January 24 at exactly 7:00 pm.



The French team of Didier Auriol and Bernard Occelli at the start in Sestriere. (Reuters wirephoto)

Biasion seeks 3rd title

SESTRIERE, Italy, Jan 20, (Reuters): Massimo Biasion set off from the Italian start point for the Monte Carlo rally yesterday with his sights on a third year as world rally champion.

The Italian, in a works Lancia Delta Integrale, was at the wheel of one of 29 cars that left the Alpine resort of Sestriere on a 1,151 km route to Monte Carlo via Milan.

Lancia have won the Monte Carlo classic, the first race of the world championship season, in each of the last four years with Biasion triumphant in 1987 and 1989 and overall world champion in both of the last two seasons.

"My aim is to win my third consecutive world title. I fear the Mitsubishi but I've got to keep an eye on my own team mates as well," Biasion said in Sestriere.

He was referring not least to 1986 and 1987 world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland, now back with Lancia after two seasons at Toyota.

Kankkunen was furious with Lancia orders in 1987 to let Biasion win in Monte Carlo but says he is no longer resentful.

Sestriere was one of five start points for the rally proper, which begins tomorrow. The others were in France, Spain, Switzerland and West Germany.

Filcheck entries open

THE first rated chess tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) will start Feb 2, 1990 at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts, male or female, whether simply good or really excellent players. All participants will be classified into three categories namely the beginners, the middle strength and the seeded players according to their rating tests and/or previous tournament standing.

Each group will play an 8-round Swiss system to determine the champion and three runner-ups for each group. A total of 60 members are expected to join. The final list of participants will be released next Sunday Jan 28 as the deadline for registration has been moved to Friday, Jan 26.

Each player shall make his first 45 moves in 1-1/2 hours and the succeeding 15 moves in 30 minutes. A player who oversteps the time regulation will be adjudged loser and his opponent winner of the game. A 30-minute defaulting time will be observed.

Meanwhile, Filcheck president Edward Racaza has asked all members to attend a meeting to discuss the mechanics of the games at 6:00 pm on Thursday, Filcheck day, at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

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